

0. 1997 THE JERUSALEM POST
WEATHER
Jerusalem 15-20
Tel Aviv 16-21
Haifa 16-21
Beersheva 15-20
1. 1997

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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MAZADA TOURS

VOLUME LXV. NUMBER 19627 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1997 • IYAR 14, 5757 • 14 MOHARRAM 1418 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

Knesset marks Ron Arad's birthday
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Shahak warns Palestinian anger is rising

By LIAT COLLINS

Although the Palestinian Authority apparently wants to avoid an armed conflict with Israel, preferring to use its gains in the international arena, a feeling of hatred is returning to the Palestinian street, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee yesterday.

tions: violence or dialogue. He did not specify which is more likely. Some Palestinians are losing faith in the PA, Shahak said, and some are

Mordechai Iran arming Hizbullah via Syria, Page 2

beginning to perceive it as a body which exploits the population and

enriches only those close to it. Shahak confirmed reports, raised by Ze'ev Begin (Likud), that some Fatah activists have joined the Islamic Jihad. He also confirmed reports that there are rocket-propelled grenades in the Gaza Strip. He denied, however, stories that the IDF is confiscating arms from Jewish settlers. The military is holding a campaign to register the location of its weapons, he explained, and all the arms taken were IDF - not private - property. Shahak said that after a check into

the matter, the weapons had been returned to most of the 31 people who appealed against their removal; most of those who did not get the weapons back have a criminal record. Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) stopped the heated discussion twice to allow MKs to cool off. Most of the confrontation took place between Yossi Sarid (Meretz) and Haim Ramon (Labor), on one side, and Begin, Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), and Shaul Yahalom (NRP) on the other. The meeting had to be stopped in the

middle of discussions on the security of Jewish residents in Hebron. Shahak said the IDF is doing everything possible to ensure their safety. Porat and Yahalom said that, nonetheless, a child had been wounded in a stone-throwing incident. "You're talking about a stone when there is a danger of nuclear weapons," Ramon interjected. On Lebanon, a senior military intelligence officer said there has been a gradual return to the same scope of attacks by Hizbullah as there was six months ago - about 60 incidents a

month. Shahak stressed, however, that Hizbullah does not seem to want a flare up and is basically abiding by the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath. Recent successful IDF initiatives have put pressure on Hizbullah, he continued. The organization is continuing to receive arms by air from Iran via Syria. He said there are also signs of cooperation between Hizbullah and Palestinian groups in south Lebanon.

Netanyahu rejects US report on settlements

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected a US report, according to which 26 percent of the housing units in settlements in the West Bank and 56 percent in Gaza are unoccupied. Netanyahu said the real figures are a "tiny fraction" of that.

"I don't have the accurate figures at hand, but the report of 25% empty apartments is far from the truth," Netanyahu said. He noted that Ariel, for example, which the report said had 2,000 empty homes, had not many more than 2,000 homes in it altogether, "and Ariel is not an abandoned settlement."

Salai Meridor, the head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, said there are hardly any empty homes in the territories, and in most settlements there is not even one empty apartment.

"I wish that the reports were true," he said, "because then we would be able to fill them very quickly. The fact is that there are hardly any empty apartments in the territories. It is known that the population there has been growing at the rate of 10% a year, 50,000 over the past four years. We are confident that it will continue in this manner."

Peace Now spokesman Moshe Raz said that the figures his movement has are "somewhere in the middle" between those cited in the American report and the settlers' leaders' claim that there are hardly any empty apartments available.

He estimated some 12% of the housing units in the territories are empty.

He added that although his figures were lower than those in the survey, it strengthened the movement's demands that all construction in the settlements be halted.

US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington defended the report.

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Rare find
Prof. Stefan Reif, of Cambridge University, yesterday studies a letter, written by Moses Maimonides (Rambam) in the 12th century, that is to be part of a display of Cairo Geniza documents opening at the Israel Museum on June 2, 100 years after their discovery. (Brian Hendler)

PM, Levy deny deals over jobs

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Ambassador to the US Elihu Ben-Elissar, who arrived here yesterday, met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a session that continued after midnight yesterday, amid persistent rumors that he is to be replaced.

Sources close to Foreign Minister David Levi said last night that as far as Levi is concerned, Ben-Elissar will be returning to Washington tomorrow and has a return flight ticket. The sources noted, however, that Netanyahu may have other offers for him.

Netanyahu's political adviser Dr. Dore Gold is being mentioned as most likely to replace Ben-Elissar, while Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Ilan is mentioned as a candidate for UN ambassador.

Another name raised in circles close to the prime minister this week was former ambassador to the US Zalman Shoval, but it is not clear for which of the two openings he is being considered. Shoval refused to comment, saying only that he did not want to talk about hypothetical things.

A senior Foreign Ministry source implied yesterday that Ben-Elissar would remain in his position, saying that it would be an insult to the US if the government switched its ambassador so quickly. He said that it would violate diplomatic etiquette to switch an ambassador who had served for less than a year.

Before Ben-Elissar's meeting with Netanyahu, Levy expressed support for him, and predicted he would remain in his position.

"I had a good talk with the ambassador in Washington last week. I don't think he'll be replaced. I hope he'll stay in office," Levy said.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur also expressed appreciation for Ben-Elissar's work.

Until yesterday, it was speculated



Elihu Ben-Elissar (Israel Sam)

ed that Levy had agreed to the appointment of Gold and Bar-Ilan in exchange for having his close assistant Ya'acov Bardugo appointed director of Mifal Hapayis.

Both Levy and sources in the Prime Minister's Office denied that any deal concerning the diplomatic appointments had been made. Netanyahu made it clear that he supports Bardugo's appointment regardless of the other appointments.

Ben-Elissar appeared convinced that he would return to Washington tomorrow. He denied that he came on his lightning visit because he feared for his job, stating: "They are not going to replace me; don't believe the newspapers."

Earlier this week, Ben-Elissar charged that Gold was spreading the rumors that he is about to be replaced.

Gold yesterday denied that he has said anything against Ben-Elissar and said that no one has approached him about replacing him. Sources close to Gold said that he has indicated that he is not interested in an ambassadorial position and is quite satisfied in his present job.

Sources close to Levy dismissed the possibility that if Ben-Elissar refuses to resign, Netanyahu would appoint Gold as political

delegate in Washington, in which case Gold would act as the real ambassador, cutting Ben-Elissar off completely.

"We will not allow this to happen. If they try to do that, Ben-Elissar will not let him [Gold] work," one source said.

Foreign ministry sources said Ben-Elissar did not have a chance at succeeding in his job from the start, since Netanyahu's senior advisers cut him off from all White House contacts and in many cases he was the last to hear of developments between Israel and the US.

Liav Collins adds: Meretz leader Yossi Sarid described Ben-Elissar as "the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time."

He also said that "even the best ambassador cannot market bad and dangerous policies. Therefore not only should Ben-Elissar be replaced, but first of all - and more importantly - Benjamin Netanyahu should be replaced."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, has asked State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to look into reports that a deal has been made to appoint a Geshet member to head Mifal Hapayis in return for a Likud appointment as ambassador in Washington.

"Making deals stemming from political or other vested interests means there is no chance that the best and most talented civil servants will be appointed," he said. Moshe Arens also criticized Netanyahu in an interview on Channel 1.

"Making appointments is not the prime minister's strong card, to my great sorrow," Arens said. "This is not something marginal. In my opinion, but the most important characteristic that a leader needs - the ability to build a staff and appoint the right people, because nothing can be accomplished by only one man, not even by the prime minister."

Magen resigns as deputy finance minister

By SARAH HONIG

Deputy Finance Minister David Magen (Gesher) resigned yesterday, making good his threat of three weeks ago. His most likely replacement is said to be MK Michael Kleiner.

At 12:20 p.m., Magen sent a terse letter to Finance Minister

Dan Meridor. The first sentence said that he was stepping down; the second and last sentence thanked Meridor for his cooperation. Magen did not repeat the acrimonious onslaught on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with which he first announced his decision to resign. Foreign Minister David

Levy at the time prevailed on him to wait and go through factional channels. But when the three weeks Magen allotted as a cooling-off period were over, he resigned.

Sources said that Magen will not be missed in the Finance Ministry, as his contribution there was negligible. This more than anything,

Gesher sources said, contributed to his growing sense of frustration. Magen said yesterday that he is "sure my voice will be heard more as an ordinary MK. I could not speak out as a deputy minister, but I will say what is on my mind as an ordinary MK."

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Eran to stay on in Amman

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran yesterday accepted Foreign Minister David Levy's request not to resign and is to return to Amman in two days.

Eran resigned last week, a mere four days after assuming the post, after not receiving advance notice of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Akaba for a meeting with King Hussein. He said he quit "to warn and to improve the functioning of the

embassy and the apparatus handling a sensitive matter such as our relations with Jordan."

Eran yesterday met Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, who said afterwards that Eran agreed to stay in office after being assured he would be able to function effectively.

Eran said that "I raised issues which I thought important. Assuming that these issues have been settled, as I understood from the foreign minister and the director-general, I will agree to Levy's request."

'Witch of Jenin' fortune-teller remanded for fraud

By RAINE MARCUS

Known as the witch of Jenin, Zahariya Shahada, a fortune-teller and healer frequented by politicians

and celebrities, will be predicting the future of fellow inmates at the Abu Kabir lock-up for the next seven days. She was remanded on fraud charges by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Shahada, also known as Umm Amur, allegedly conned thousands of people out of their money by convincing them that she had supernatural and psychic powers and could exorcise the evil eye.

Shahada, a mother of 16, regaled her clients with the tale that she had been murdered by her husband, but was brought back to life by a woman from her village, who removed her from her grave.

Following her resurrection, she said, she had been granted powers to cure all human problems.

Police said Shahada worked countrywide, attracting celebrities and even IDF officers. After receiving

complaints, two police officers decided to check her supernatural powers out for themselves at an apartment in Tel Aviv she used. They told Shahada they were having marital problems and desperately needed her help. For NIS 5,200, she said, she could solve their problems.

She produced a few grains of rice, said Supt. David Materani, and told the couple to count them. "Then she took some salt from a

piece of paper, played around with other pieces of paper, and suddenly produced a sweet, just like a magician," he said. This apparently was supposed to solve the couple's marital problems.

Shahada was arrested and appeared in front of Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Hayata Cohen yesterday morning.

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Mordechai: Iran arming Hizbullah

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah has been receiving large quantities of arms and ammunition by air from Iran via Syria in the past few months, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

He also said that Israel is examining reports that these shipments may have included improved, long-range Katyusha rockets.

Mordechai spoke to reporters during a visit to the security zone, where he was briefed by senior officers, including OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine and IDF commander in Lebanon Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai.

His visit came amid a marked escalation in fighting. On Monday morning, an Amal suicide bomber attempted to destroy an Israeli Navy gunboat and, in a clash north of the zone on Thursday night, three paratroopers were killed and seven wounded.

"There's constant air activity, which I have remarked upon many

times, of planes flying in equipment and weapons from Iran to Damascus and from there to the Bekaa Valley and to Lebanon," Mordechai said.

"Some of this equipment is for civilian needs, and some for military requirements. This includes anti-tank weapons, ammunition, arms, and a variety of different equipment in order to give Hizbullah and other terrorist organizations on Lebanese soil better fighting capabilities."

Mordechai said he is investigating reports that the shipments may have included Katyusha rockets with a long-range capability that would theoretically enable them to reach Haifa's bayside suburbs.

He accused Iran of giving Hizbullah financial and military aid, as well as ideological backing, and Syria of aiding in this. Nevertheless, Mordechai reiterated his call to Syria to return to the negotiating table.

Mordechai visited an outpost in the security zone and later an obser-

vation point on top of the joint headquarters of the South Lebanese Army and the IDF's Lebanese liaison unit in Marjayoun.

He stressed that initiated operations, in which the IDF had scored some notable successes in the past two months, would continue.

"The level of security given to northern communities is a direct result of the efforts being made here in the security zone and, unfortunately, the high price we sometimes pay here with the best of our sons," said Mordechai.

There have been over 80 incidents in south Lebanon in the past few weeks, including roadside bombings and attacks on IDF and SLA troops and positions. In one such incident yesterday, Hizbullah gunmen fired several mortar rounds at an SLA outpost in the zone's eastern sector. There were no casualties or damage and IDF gunners returned fire. Military sources said they believe the recent intensification in fighting will continue.



Greek FM visits

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos and his wife study exhibits at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem yesterday. Pangalos also visited the Knesset and held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the peace process. Netanyahu called on the European Union to stop giving automatic aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Defense minister meets settlers over Yitzhar

A report on Arutz 7 yesterday claimed that settlement leaders met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Monday night, in an attempt to reach a solution regarding the controversial hilltop near Yitzhar.

Present at the meeting were Mordechai's settlement adviser Eli Cohen, and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan.

According to the radio report, one of the possible solutions raised was that the IDF take over

the hilltop in exchange for the settlers evacuating the buildings erected after the IDF and police demolished three houses there two weeks ago.

Yehiel Leiter, of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza said that he hadn't heard about the meeting, but if the IDF intended to safeguard the hilltop and eventually turn it over to the settlement, the council would support the solution.

Margot Dudkevitch

REPORT

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"Based on what we've seen on the ground, the figure of 25% vacancy rate in settlements is more or less accurate. There's no need for natural growth of settlements if there's such a high vacancy rate," he told Reuters.

Hu'aretz reported yesterday that the American research into the housing situation in the settlements, which included satellite surveillance, shows that only 1,100 out of the 2,300 housing units in Gaza are inhabited and that 31,061 out of 41,000 apartments in the West Bank are uninhabited. On the Golan Heights, 28% of the housing units are uninhabited.

According to the report, there are 2,000 empty housing units in Ariel, constituting 26% of all the apartments in town. In Shilo, there are 1,000 empty housing units.

The US concluded that Israel does not need to expand the settlements, since a considerable part of the housing units in them are uninhabited. *Hu'aretz* said.

The survey was published less than 24 hours after US Ambassador Martin Indyk called for an immediate freeze on settlement construction to get the peace process back on track.

Yehiel Leiter, of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, called the survey ridiculous. "It is clear that it was published to embarrass Netanyahu," he said.

Leiter said that just six months ago, the government decided to release for sale 3,000 homes that

had been frozen under the previous government. "At least 50% of these homes have already been purchased and by summer, the remaining 1,000 or so will be bought," he said.

Council secretary-general Aharon Domb also laughed at the reports. "I thought we could depend on the Americans," he said. "According to the survey there are 2,000 empty houses in Ariel, comprising 26% of the settlement's houses. That's ridiculous. How can there be 8,000 units, when there are in actual fact 3,500."

Leiter pointed out that even the photo accompanying the *Hu'aretz* article was "way out of line. The caravans claimed to be empty were dormitories for 60 odd students attending a hesder yeshiva for over six years. Just recently, they moved into permanent dwellings and now the caravans are filled with single-parent families and young couples."

Liat Collins adds: Labor Party Knesset faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen filed an urgent motion for the agenda in response to the report. He sent a letter to Netanyahu demanding precise figures on the numbers of empty apartments and calling for the immediate end to the construction.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called on Netanyahu to listen to the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and stop the construction of Har Homa. "There is nothing more urgent or important today than resuming the diplomatic negotiations in order to prevent a war, and suspending the building on Har Homa will enable the talks to resume," he said.

MAGEN

Continued from Page 1

He stressed, however, that "this does not mean that I am crossing over to the opposition. I am a disciplined party member and my opposition will be mounted strictly within the coalition parameters, like that of [MK Ze'ev] Begin. When I see something which I think is wrong, I will make my opinions audible. A case in point is the intention to relinquish \$50 million [in US aid] in favor of Jordan, while we are imposing severe budgetary cutbacks."

Three weeks ago, Magen cited Netanyahu's speech after the publication of the state attorney's report on the Bar-On Affair as his reason for quitting, but yesterday he said that "there are many reasons for resigning, and a certain expression by the prime minister was the trigger."

Kleiner has said that he would like to replace Magen, while MK Maxim Levy said he is not after the job. MK Yehuda Lankri said he would take the post if it is offered to him by Levy. He will abide by Levy's decision, he said.

FRAUD

Continued from Page 1

According to police, she would demand checks from her clients, which she told them she would tear up. This, she said, was part of the treatment. In fact, she would pass the checks onto a third party who would deposit them into his bank account and give her cash.

The tax authorities also are expected to investigate Shahada's earnings, amounting to millions of shekels, which she allegedly failed to declare.

Brothers Sharon and Yisrael Zilberman, allegedly Shahada's impresarios, also were remanded for three days.

ARRIVALS

Arrivals for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University. From Brazil: Miriam and Charles Tawil. From Germany: Anke and Prof. Dr. Detlef Udo. From South Africa: Estelle Yach. From Switzerland: Hannelore and Dr. Dr. Karl Heinz Kipp for the inauguration of the Hannelore Kipp Chair in the Study of Antiquity. From The United States: Dr. Felix Zandman for the inauguration of the Alfred P. Slamer Chair in Antisemitism and Racism.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Edward Abington, U.S. consul general, Jerusalem will address the club.

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PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE

INFORMATION

RESEARCH

ACRE

K.H. Maccabi, 41 Der. Ha'arba'a (Friday);
K.H. Clalit, 35 David Noy (Thursday, Friday)

AFULA

K.H. Clalit, Omer Clinic, Reh. Shenbaum (Friday);
K.H. Clalit, Ha'emek Hospital, Dermatology Clinic (Thursday)

ARABA

K.H. Clalit, Araba Clinic (Thursday)

ARAD

K.H. Clalit, Arad Clinic, Reh. Hen (Thursday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

ASHDOD

K.H. Maccabi, Reh. Dov Gur, Bechor Shitrit Sq. (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, Old Commercial Center (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Medical Center, Hakira, The City Square (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 8 Keren Hayessod (Thursday)

ASHKELON

K.H. Leumi, Shimon branch, 19 Shai Agnon (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Hutzot Clinic, Canion Hutzot (Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 5 Kibbutz Galitot (Thursday 4-8 p.m.)

BAT YAM

K.H. Clalit, Melech Nawi Clinic, 20 Kedoshai Kahir (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 45 Yerushalayim (Friday 8-11:30 a.m.)

BEERSHEBA

K.H. Maccabi, 11 Sd. Hane'im, Hakupa Clinic (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumi, Canion Hanegev branch, Eli Cohen Junction (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Mehozil Clinic, Henetta Szold, (Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon; 4-7 p.m., Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Ben Yair Clinic, Reh. Bialik (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Soroka Medical Center (Thursday)

BET SHEAN

K.H. Clalit, Alef Clinic, Raesoo Commercial Center, (Thursday)

BET SHEMESH

K.H. Clalit, Municipal Beit Shemesh Clinic, Reh. Hamiehat (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 32 Rehov Hazon Ish, E. Beit Shemesh (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 17 Rehov Harakelet (Thursday)

BET ZARZIR

K.H. Meuhedet, Joamie Zarzir (Thursday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

BNEI BRAK

K.H. Clalit, Blumenthal Clinic, 13 Rehov Eli Cohen (Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 34 Rehov Akiva (Thursday, Friday)

DIMONA

K.H. Clalit, Dallet clinic, Rehov Yiziat Iropa (Friday)

EILAT

K.H. Clalit, District Clinic, Yerushalayim Hashlema (Thursday)

GIVATAYIM

K.H. Maccabi, 45 Rehov Amishav (Thursday)

HADERA

K.H. Meuhedet, 21 Rehov Herzl (Thursday 4 p.m.-6 p.m., Friday)
Hilal Yaffe Hospital, outpatients' clinic (Thursday)

HAIFA

K.H. Clalit, Ibn Sina Clinic, 8 Rehov Ibn Sina (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Almog Clinic, 36 Rehov Blumental (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Rush Professional Clinic, 4 Rehov Eitan, Central Carmel (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Linn Medical Center, Plastic Surgery Dept. 35 Sd. Rothschild (Thursday)
K.H. Leumi, 3 Rehov Hassan Shukri (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 6 Rehov Aliti (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 3 Rehov Smolenskin (Thursday 4-6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 12 noon)
K.H. Meuhedet, 4 Rehov Horev (Thursday 5-8 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 34 Sd. Abba Hushi (Thursday 5-7 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 73 Herzl (Thursday)
Rambam Medical Center (Thursday, Friday)
Bnei Zion Medical Center, 47 Rehov Golomb (Thursday, Friday)

HERZLIYA

K.H. Maccabi, 7 Rehov Hasharon (Friday)

HOD HASHARON

K.H. Meuhedet, 23 Rehov Yehoshua Ben Gamla (Friday)

HOLON

K.H. Clalit, Yudi Alef Be'adar Clinic, 5 Rehov Kfar Giladi (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 11 Rehov Rabinowitz, Kiyat Ben-Gurion (Friday 12:30-2:30 p.m.)
Wolfson Hospital, Outpatients' Clinic, Dermatology Clinic, 2nd floor (Thursday, Friday)

JERUSALEM

K.H. Maccabi, 15 Rehov Agrippas (Thursday)
K.H. Maccabi, 39 Rehov Hashisha Asar, Pisgat Ze'ev (Friday)
Bell Medical Center, 3 Rehov King George (Thursday 9:30-noon, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Sheikh Jarrah Clinic, Government Compound East (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Mekor Baruch Clinic, 1 Rehov Elazar Hamaccabi (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 4 Rehov Haburim (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 800 Tzvia Veyitzhak, Gilo (Thursday 3-5 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, Ramat Eshkol, 10 Rehov Paran (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 8 Rehov Melechi (Thursday)
Shaara Zedek Medical Center, (Thursday, Friday)
Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center, Outpatients' Clinic (Friday)

KABUL

K.H. Clalit, Kabul Clinic (Friday)

KARMIEL

K.H. Clalit, Professional Clinic, Canion Lev Karmiel (Thursday)

KPAR SAVA

K.H. Clalit, Sapir Medical Center (Meir Hospital) (Thursday, Friday)

KIRYAT ATA

K.H. Meuhedet, Rehov Mordechai Hagetaot (Friday 8:30-11 a.m.)

KIRYAT BIALIK

K.H. Clalit, Zevulun Clinic, Migdalei Hakiryon (Thursday, Friday)

KIRYAT GAT

K.H. Maccabi, 115 Rehov Hagafen, Canion Gat Center (Thursday)
K.H. Leumi, 38 Sd. Lachish (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Hazera Clinic, Rehov Shviti Yisrael (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 67 Rehov Snir (Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon)

KIRYAT ONO

K.H. Maccabi, 25 Rehov Yirmiyahu (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumi, 31 Rehov Waloah (Thursday, Friday)

KIRYAT SHMONA

K.H. Clalit, Kanav Medical Center (Thursday 1:30-5 p.m.)

LOD

K.H. Leumi, 5 Rehov Haestrog (Thursday, Friday)

MACCABIM/REUT

K.H. Meuhedet, Maccabim Commercial Center (Thursday 5-7 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, Old Commercial Center (Friday)

MIGDAL HA'EMEK

K.H. Clalit, Migdal Ha'emek Clinic (Friday)

NAHARIYA

K.H. Clalit, Professional Clinic "B", 34 Sd. Hage'aton (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 70 Rehov Herzl (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 70 Rehov Herzl (Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Government Hospital (Thursday)

NAZARETH

K.H. Clalit, Clinic "Bet", Rehov Nemaoy (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, Galilee Commercial Center (Friday 8-10 a.m.)

NAZARETH ILLIT

K.H. Clalit, South Clinic, Dado Square (Thursday)
K.H. Maccabi, Lev Har' Building (Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Meuhedet, Rehov Atzmon, Commercial Center (Thursday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

NETANYA

K.H. Maccabi, 15 Rehov Smilansky (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Medical Clinic, 8 Rehov Razeel (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 20 Rehov Smilansky (Thursday 4-6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon)

NETIVOT

K.H. Maccabi, 8 Rehov Yerushalayim, Commercial Center (Thursday)

OFAKIM

K.H. Maccabi, 3 Rehov Herzl (Thursday)

OMER

K.H. Clalit, Omer Clinic, Rehov Rotem (Friday)

OR YEHUDA

K.H. Maccabi, 1 Rehov Ofim (Thursday)

PETAH TIKVA

K.H. Clalit, Rabin Medical Center, Bellinson Campus (Thursday)

RA'ANANA

K.H. Maccabi, 48 Hehaya, oar. Hativat Givati (Thursday)

RAMAT GAN

K.H. Maccabi, 17 Arlosoroff, (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 7 Rehov Abba Hillel, Beit Silver (Thursday)
K.H. Maccabi, 104 Rehov Jabotinsky Ramat Merpa (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, 8 Rehov Har'eh (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 8 Natan (Thursday)
Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer (Thursday, Friday)

REHOVOT

K.H. Meuhedet, 4 Rehov Binyamin (Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3-6 p.m., Friday)

REINA

K.H. Meuhedet, Kfar Reina (Friday 2-4 p.m.)

RISHON LEZION

K.H. Clalit, Pinsky Clinic, 31 Rehov Pinsky (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 79 Rehov Hanahshol, Ahuzzat Rishonim, Neveh Yam (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 72 Rehov Rothschild (Thursday)

ROSH HAYIM

K.H. Maccabi, 17 Sd. Hazayonut, Givat Hashaim (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Mizpe Alek Clinic, 95 Sd. Shilo (Thursday 3-8 p.m.)

SAFED

K.H. Clalit, Central Clinic, 45 Reh. Hanassi (Thursday)

SDELOT

K.H. Clalit, Sderot Clinic, Rehov Havered (Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; 4-6 p.m.)

TEL AVIV

K.H. Maccabi, 10 Rehov Balfour (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 75 Rehov Hashla (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumi, 10 Rehov Lapid, Shechunat Hatikva (Thursday 4-7 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m.-noon)
K.H. Leumi, Beit Harolim, 3 Rehov Sprinzak, 2nd floor, room 260 (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Ramat Aviv Alef Clinic, 19 Brodetzki (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Tel Nordau Clinic, 1 Dov Hoz (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Lamed Clinic, 27 Rehov Buria (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Children's Health Center, 18 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimel (Friday noon-2 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 15 Sprinzak (Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.)
Soraski Medical Center (Ichilov Hospital) (Thursday, Friday)

TIBERIAS

K.H. Clalit, Rekei Clinic, Reh. Hashashmonaim (Thursday 3-7 p.m.)

YOKNEAM

K.H. Leumi, 5 Rehov Hanekefet (Thursday)

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Knesset marks Arad's birthday

By LIAT COLLINS

A strong message went out from the Knesset yesterday: "Free Ron Arad." The message was picked up and echoed by members of the British and German parliaments who participated in a special satellite- and internet link-up with their Israeli counterparts for a conference marking the 39th birthday of the missing Israeli navigator who was captured in 1986.

The conference was the initiative of Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, who heads the sub-committee on communication and information. Among those who appeared in the satellite link-up was Britain's Derek Fatchett, minister of the State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on the eve of a visit to the

Middle East.

He said he would bring up the subject during his visit to Syria next week "and make it very clear that the British government will be working hard for his release."

John Marshall, a Conservative MP until the recent elections, called Arad's captivity "the most scandalous abuse of human rights in the western world." He said Arad's release would further the peace process. Marshall noted that Arad has been missing as long as both world wars put together.

Conservative MP James Clappison said he would continue to take up Arad's cause with the new government.

Although the planned link with the German Bundestag did not work out, the speaker, Rita

Süssmuth, sent a message to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon sympathizing with the campaign to free Arad.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky told the British MPs and viewers that he could personally identify with Arad from his experiences as a former Prisoner of Zion.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat spoke to Ron's mother, Batya Arad - "as one mother to another, who understands and shares your hope that you will wake up in the morning and find Ron at home."

Yosef Harari, who heads the Committee to Free Ron Arad, stressed the modern media event was not "celebrating but marking his birthday. We'll celebrate it with him when he returns."



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and Communications Minister Limor Livnat (center) join Ron Arad's mother, Batya Arad, at a Knesset ceremony yesterday in honor of the missing navigator's 39th birthday. (Chana Harari)

Jews in Iran have religious freedom, says ex-community leader

By STEVE RODAN

Iran's 25,000 Jews have been granted freedom of religion as well as limited travel rights by the Islamic regime in Teheran, according to former community head Parviz Nazarian.

Nazarian, who since 1979 has resided in Los Angeles, said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the Islamic republic allows synagogues and Jewish schools to operate. This is in contrast to the years of government persecution of the Jews that followed the 1978 overthrow of the Shah.

"The Jews have learned to live in Iran," said Nazarian, a former IDF soldier who heads a scholarship fund that has aided 400 Israelis.

"They don't feel under pressure. There are synagogues and schools. The regime doesn't interfere on issues of religion."

Nazarian, who himself would not dare to return to his home in Teheran, said Jews have possibilities of leaving Iran, although many appear ready to remain in the country. "It's a question of

price," he said. "Also there is an age factor. Many of the Jews in Iran today are elderly (and prefer to stay)."

The 67-year-old Nazarian, who helps run several companies based in the US, will today donate an endowment for a chair for the study of modern Iran at Tel Aviv University, the first such chair in Israel. He said his goal is to promote understanding of Iran in Israel in the hope that Teheran will one day reconcile itself with the Jewish state.

"You have to know the Iranians to make a deal," he said. "Iran under an ayatollah will not last long. Even today, under the ayatollah, the country is changing. There are intellectuals who are beginning to think they need the US and the West. The Iranians are not anti-Israel. They use such rhetoric for political reasons in the Arab world."

But Nazarian said he cannot explain the motive of Iran's programs to develop nuclear weapons and medium-range ballistic missiles capable of hitting Israel. "Even I as an Iranian lack the tools to understand Iran today," he said.

Gov't, ULA discuss new plan to end strike

By LIAT COLLINS

A meeting between the prime minister, finance minister and interior minister last night came up with a financial recommendation to end the local authorities strike, according to the Union of Local Authorities spokesman. He said the government had proposed giving the ULA NIS 80 million in each of the next four years and NIS 600m. in a year.

Earlier, Interior Minister Eli Suissa said he "identifies with the just struggle of the local authority heads," during yesterday's stormy Knesset Interior Committee discussion on the crisis. Committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor), at the outset of the meeting, strongly criticized Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who did not attend the discussion, although he later met with local authority heads in his own office.

"Part of the problem with the heavy deficit is the heavy demand the government places on the local authorities. I have stopped wandering among the local authorities because I am ashamed to look these people in the eyes when their water supply is cut off, there is no money to pay their workers' wages and I have nothing I can tell

them," Suissa said.

David Milgrom, head of the Finance Ministry's budget division, said the ministry is trying not to deviate from the budget and any additional funds for the local authorities would open up discussions among other bodies.

The committee decided to create a sub-committee with the Finance Committee to hold immediate discussions with the prime minister, finance minister and others in an attempt to solve the problem.

Maxim Levy (Gesher), former Lod mayor, blamed the government and said it is close-minded to the problem. Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) said the government had prepared the budget without serious thought "and most of the ministers raised their hands [to vote] without knowing what for."

Also earlier, ULA head Adi Eldar said the heads would not take down their protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office. He said the finance minister is ignoring and belittling the council heads and does not take into account such problems as the fact that in some towns some 40 percent of the residents, mainly new immigrants, are exempt from paying municipal taxes.

Olmert takes stand in own defense

By RAINE MARCUS

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, on trial in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on charges of fraud and breach of trust, took the stand in his own defense yesterday.

He is charged with fraudulently trying to obtain government funds for the 1988 Likud election campaign - he was campaign treasurer - by declaring that contributions were coming from abroad. According to the prosecution, he failed to declare that he was getting illegal donations from corporations and gave false invoices stating that money was for advertising services.

Olmert testified that he had not been in charge of donations from Israeli companies, but that those responsible, Yona Peled and Menahem Atzmon, had been tried and convicted for the offenses he was on trial for.

"That year I was extremely busy," said Olmert. "I had no time to think about anything. I had to appear every evening at three or four places as part of our campaign."

According to Olmert, Atzmon was in charge of contributions to the party. "I trusted him and Peled implicitly," he added. After his testimony, Olmert told reporters that he had not committed any crime.

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Qatar won't cancel next Mideast economic summit

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Qatar this week rebuffed high-level appeals from Syria to dismantle its links with Israel and cancel the fourth annual Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference, scheduled to be held in Doha next November.

According to the Saudi-owned daily *al-Hayat*, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara lobbied Qatar to close Israel's trade office in Doha and refrain from hosting the conference in the absence of a "just and comprehensive peace."

Shara later traveled to Jeddah, where he joined Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam for talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd as part of Syria's efforts to rally Arab support for its position in its deadlocked talks with Israel. In Doha, Shara delivered a verbal message from Syrian President Hafez Assad to the Qatari emir,

Sheikh Hamad bin-Khalifa Al Thani. *Al-Hayat* did not give details about the message but reported extensively on talks between Shara and his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Hamad bin-Jasssem bin-Jabr Al Thani.

It said Shara stressed the importance of a "unified and cohesive Arab position" in face of Prime Minister Netanyahu's "anti-peace policy," insisting that such a stand was the only way of "changing Netanyahu's expansionist mentality to a peaceful one that adheres to the land-for-peace principle and achieves international legitimacy."

In Doha Foreign Ministry spokesman Fawaz al-Attiyah confirmed that Qatar would host the economic forum as planned, but said it was premature to discuss whether Israel would be invited. There was, he added, ample time for "positive developments" that would put the peace talks back on track.

Attiyah stressed Qatar's support for Syria's demand that talks with Israel must resume at the point where they were suspended 15 months ago by the Labor-led government.

Attiyah said Qatar had frozen the activities of the Israeli trade office and all other links with Israel. In Jeddah, Shara and Khaddam delivered a message to Saudi King Fahd from Assad which a Syrian source said related to "obstacles affecting the peace process as a result of Netanyahu's intransigent policy, and ways of vitalizing the process by contacting some influential capitals, principally Washington, to pressure Tel Aviv and force it to resume the negotiations."

Washington is expected to provoke intense intra-Arab controversy by insisting that the Doha conference proceed as planned and that Israel be invited to send a top-level delegation to the event.



Betar Jerusalem players score for youth program

Soccer players from the national champions, Betar Jerusalem, take a break yesterday on the grass of Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium with a group of Arab and Jewish youth taking part in a one-day happening of the Rosh Pina Mainstreaming Network. The group integrates youngsters with developmental difficulties and their peers without disabilities for after-school activities.

(Karen Ben-Zion)

Former concentration camp guard to be deported from US

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A retired baker who was a concentration camp guard for the Nazis will be deported for taking Jews and others on a death march to Auschwitz, US government prosecutors announced on Monday.

The deportation order for Nikolaus Schiffer, 78, came from Immigration Judge John Gossert Jr., who said he tormented prisoners at three concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

"Schiffer personally testified to his participation in a death march from Hersbruck to Auschwitz on which weakened prisoners were shot or left to die when they

could not continue," Gossert said Monday.

Schiffer, who admitted to being a guard but denied knowing of the atrocities within the camps, will be deported to Romania.

The telephone number at his home in New Ringgold, 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia, was unlisted and he could not be reached for comment.

Schiffer becomes the latest in a series of former Nazi camp guards to be ordered out of the country.

Ferdinand Hammer, 75, a retired foundry worker, was ordered in April to be deported to Croatia for covering up his past

as a guard at five concentration camps. He had lived in the US since 1955.

Also last month, a federal judge in Chicago revoked the US citizenship of Bronislaw Hajda, 73, saying the retired machinist lied when he denied participating in a massacre of hundreds of Jews at the Treblinka death camp. The Justice Department is seeking to have him deported.

Prosecutors said Schiffer joined the Romanian army when it was allied with Germany, and later served in the Waffen SS.

Schiffer was an armed guard on labor details in the Sachsenhausen and Hersbruck

concentration camps in Germany and the Majdanek camp and Trawniki SS training camp in Poland, the government charged.

He was stripped of his US citizenship in 1993 and ordered to leave the country by a federal judge, clearing the way for deportation proceedings.

Another Pennsylvania man, Jonas Stelmokas, 80, of Lansdowne, was stripped of his US citizenship in 1995 after prosecutors claimed he helped Nazis massacre thousands of Lithuanian Jews.

Stelmokas denied the charge and has fought attempts to have him deported.

Lag Ba'Omer to be marked Saturday night

By JUDY SIEGEL

Five days before Lag Ba'Omer, the area around the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yohai is already full of families who have put up tents and are waiting for the festivities of Saturday night and Sunday. The people are believed to have come early because the holiday begins right after Shabbat and to get a good place closer to the tomb.

According to Magen David Adom, some 200,000 celebrants are expected on Mt. Meron, near Safed, on Lag Ba'Omer. MDA will provide first aid services from Friday at 10 a.m. until Sunday night. Four doctors and 60 medics, paramedics, and volunteers will be on duty at the site.

MDA urged parents to be present at all bonfires and to ensure that children are kept at a distance from the

fire. In case of burns, extinguish the fire and move the victim to a safe distance. Pull his head gently backwards to expand his airways. Cool the burn with water and cover it with sterile gauze. Call MDA.

Lag Ba'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer, or 18 Iyar) marks a respite in the month-long period of mourning during which no weddings are performed or hair cut. It marks the halt of the plague killing of disciples of Rabbi Akiva during their participation in Bar Kochba's revolt against the Romans.

The Chief Rabbinate called on the public not to violate Shabbat in preparation for Lag Ba'Omer bonfires. The lighting of the central bonfire on the tomb at Meron has been postponed to noon Sunday to prevent Sabbath desecration, the rabbis said.

British lottery awards £279,155 to New Israel Fund

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Three Middle East-oriented groups are among the 130 British charities named yesterday to share a £25 million windfall from British lottery funds.

The largest award to a London-based Middle East charity went to the New Israel Fund, which was awarded £279,155 for a project to provide Beduin children in the Negev Desert with improved educational opportunities.

The Friends of the Spafford Children's Center of Jerusalem was awarded £97,500 to help Palestinian children overcome behavioral and learning difficulties. The Friends of Bir Zeit University received a grant of £211,407 "to improve the quality of life for the most disadvantaged groups within Palestinian society."

'It's brainwashing,' says an opponent of the 'teshuva' movement

By DAN IZENBERG

Dan Mahler is one of the most outspoken critics of the *teshuva* movement and a leader of *Ita*, the Association to Fight Haredi Domination.

Mahler, 63, a plastic surgeon and Ben-Gurion University professor, has little in common with the *Fenoso* and *Aviv* families, who live in poor neighborhoods in Tel Aviv. He lives in a posh section of Ramat Aviv and — if one can judge by his professional credentials and the art and library in his home — belongs to the country's affluent elite.

Yet, like the *Aviv* and *Fenoso* families, he also has a son who left the secular fold to become haredi. Although Mahler does not like to talk about it, he regards his son's decision as his personal loss, a loss which still ranks after 13 years. It presumably was a major

factor in his decision to become active in *Ita*.

Mahler acknowledged that there is a difference between the transformation of his son, who was 20 at the time, and the teenage boys of Rachel Fenso and Rina Aviv. It is the targeting of children so

Last in a five-part series

young that angers him so much.

"The process of *teshuva* has nothing to do with gaining knowledge," said Mahler, quoting from an article written for *Ita's* newsletter by Tel Aviv University psychologist David Green. "What is involved is a rapid change in thinking without opportunity for the gradual development of opin-

ion, while denying the opportunity to hear criticism or conflicting evidence. *Hazara beshuva* is a drastic and rapid change from one philosophy to another, requiring a total and sweeping change in all customs and ways of life."

"The change demanded by the proponents of *teshuva* involves accepting a package deal, which includes assertions that there is a God, that the truth handed down by this God is the one and only truth, that there is no other truth, and that anything outside this package is a lie and an abomination. The lifestyle in this closed system obliges changes in eating habits, dress, language, attitudes to work, the state and its laws, and everyone outside the system."

According to Mahler, for the process to be successful, the *teshuva* must be isolated from all the influences of his old life — family, friends, society, and the state. "The nuclear family is the strongest foundation in the life of every child. The preacher must destroy this source of opposition to clear the way for the victim to be dragged to his intended goal," said Mahler.

"Converts are brainwashed into giving up their former lives. This is achieved by holding a series of lectures, while putting off rest, sleep, and food. The preaching can take several days. While the lecturers alternate, the audience stays in place. The lectures are interesting and the preachers charismatic."

Mahler compared the technique used by *teshuva* organizations to brainwashing methods first revealed in the West after the Korean War. He said scientific studies have proven that highly educated listeners can be persuaded by charismatic speakers, even when what they say is nonsense.

He also argued that the *teshuva* movement has more of the cult-defining characteristics listed a

decade ago by a Knesset panel headed by MK Miriam Tassa-Glaser than any of the officially designated cults operating in Israel.

Ita wants to take rabbis who have persuaded minors to leave home to court on charges of violating the Custodian Law. Yosef Partizky, a Tel Aviv lawyer, has volunteered his services. So far, however, no family has taken up that option.

One reason, Mahler says, is by the time parents might consider such action, it is too late. Parents wake up late to the process their children are undergoing, because of the residual guilt they feel for not being observant themselves, and because the preachers do not reveal their goal of making their children haredi until much later on.

In contrast to Mahler, Yosef Walis, director of *Arachim*, one of the biggest of the *teshuva* movements, flatly states that his organization's goal is " *livut*, that is, to bring people who feel far away from observing Torah and mitzvot closer to practicing mitzvot. People want to know and hear. They feel a vacuum. Then there is a higher intent. We want them to practice Judaism."

Walis, 50, is himself a *teshuva*. He said he had been a successful engineer and businessman and lived many years in the US. Dressed in a dark suit and sporting a white, cropped beard and white hair, Walis is articulate and worldly. He knows how to speak to secular Jews in a way that will not offend them. He is also totally dedicated to bringing them into the haredi fold.

"We believe that if the Jewish people live according to the Torah, as individuals and within the family, we will have a much better-functioning and healthier society," he said. "We believe this path was set down by the Creator. The Torah is a guide to life on all lev-

els. It was given by the Creator to the Chosen People."

An *Arachim* seminar 16 years ago convinced Walis that "there is a Creator of the Universe, that He handed down the commandments to the Jewish nation at Mt. Sinai and that those commandments are binding on Jews for all times."

"These three principles are vital to the Jewish people, but people are so ignorant. They learn nothing in the state secular education

system so they have no way of judging whether or not the Torah is true. Therefore, I decided to become active. Almost every *teshuva* has a sense of mission, because there is so much emptiness and ignorance. We must spread the message."

Walis stressed the rational and scientific aspects of the process of persuasion used by his organization. He focused on the seminars, in which entire families, properly

screened to weed out eccentrics and ensure a common intellectual base, are put up in a hotel for four or five consecutive days to hear lectures on all aspects of Judaism.

"The seminars are intended primarily for people on a high intellectual level," said Walis. "Usually, after the seminar, the families want to make a change, sometimes gradual, other times drastic."

See TESHUVA, Page 8

Our beloved MONICA SINGER

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A memorial gathering for

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and a tribute to his contribution to Israel's health services will be held at his home, 18 Rehov Eliezer Halevy, Kiryat Moshe, Jerusalem, on Thursday, May 22, 1997.

3:00 p.m. Dr. Gideon Mann, moderator

3:30 p.m. Prof. Shmuel Nissan

4:00 p.m. Prof. Menashe Harel

4:30 p.m. Prof. Jonathan Mann

Uri Lupolianski - The Special Contribution of

Professor Mann and His Influence on Community Health Care

1:30 p.m. Gathering at the graveside, Sanhedria

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Bracha Eden	Mariana Sorokin
Alexander Tamir	Ofra Itzhaki
Irina Berkovich	Stanislava Varshavsky
Michael Boguslavsky	Roi Aloni
Issar Slonim	Irina Kotler
Allan Sternfeld	Maria Spitkovsky
Liora Ziv-Li	Gregory Schiffrin
Vadim Monastirski	Genadi Zagor
Zoharia Plavin	Natalia Zacharova
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Lavignac	"Galop - Marche" for Piano - 8 Hands
Lutoslawski	Variations on a Theme of Paganini for Two Pianos
Schubert	"Marche Heroique" Op. 40 No. 2 and 3 for Two Pianos - 8 Hands
Liszt	Grand Galop "Chromatique" for Four Pianos - 16 Hands
Tchaikovsky	"Waltz of the Flowers" for Five Pianos - 10 Hands
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Murder trial begins for 2 British nurses in Saudi Arabia

KHCBAR, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi prosecutors opened their case yesterday against two British nurses charged with the murder of an Australian co-worker, court sources said.

The prosecutors presented new evidence, the sources said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. They would not, however, give any details on the evidence.

The British nurses, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, were brought to Khobar Supreme Court in a prison van with iron shackles on their ankles. They were accompanied by a female prison warden.

The women were dressed in black cloaks and looked drawn and strained as they arrived at the first floor courtroom escorted by half a dozen policemen.

Their British and Saudi lawyers, accompanied by two translators, waited on benches outside the courtroom for the women to arrive. Parry and McLauchlan shuffled the 50 meters to the room with difficulty, their heavy iron chains banging against the cement floor with each step.

Police prevented reporters and photographers from entering the courtroom, and lawyers refused to answer questions.

The hearing lasted over two hours.

The trial opened Monday. In that session, lawyers representing the family of victim Yvonne Gilford demanded the death penalty for Parry, 41, and McLauchlan, 31. If

convicted, the women could be beheaded.

At the opening session before the three-judge tribunal, the murder charges were read out in Arabic and translated into English. The nurses, in clear, firm tones, pleaded innocent in English, according to sources who observed the proceedings.

In a statement, the women's lawyers urged the Gilford family "not to take advantage of an Islamic religious tradition to which they do not belong." Under Islamic law, which is enforced in Saudi Arabia, the victim's family has the right to demand the death penalty or accept blood money.

Gilford's body was found Dec. 11 in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran, where the three worked. Khobar is adjacent to Dhahran.

Saudi authorities said Gilford was stabbed four times, beaten and suffocated.

Local newspaper reports said McLauchlan and Parry were arrested after using Gilford's credit cards to withdraw money from her bank account. The nurses' lawyers deny the women used Gilford's cards.

Saudi authorities said the two women confessed to the murder, but their lawyers said they did so only because they were told they would not face prosecution if they confessed. They later recanted, their lawyers said.

The court's next meeting is Sunday.

Zaire victors accused of exterminating refugees

News agencies

PARIS — A French-based aid group yesterday accused Zaire's victorious rebels of an "extermination strategy" against Hutu refugees, of whom it said 190,000 were unaccounted for.

Doctors Without Borders said Laurent Kabila and his rebel army aimed at "the elimination of all remaining Rwandan refugees, including women and children" by blocking humanitarian groups from aiding them.

The rebels' "extermination strategy" has also taken the form of killing refugees, including women and children, said the 10-page report dated May 16 and made public yesterday.

There was no immediate response from the Kabila government, which seized power this week.

Of 1.2 million Rwandan and Burundi refugees living in Zairian camps before Kabila's rebels began their offensive, 900,000 returned to their home countries, the report said, quoting UN figures.

In Kinshasa, tens of thousands of residents besieged the airport road yesterday hoping to catch a first glimpse of the new self-proclaimed president.

"He is coming in the hours to come...today," Kabila's deputy information "minister" Louis Hamuli told reporters, apparently ending a day of confusion over when the country's new leader would arrive in his capital.

Hamuli made no mention of Kabila's expected announcement of a new government yesterday, but another aide said that was still the intention.

Planning and development adviser Babi Mba, who has been consulting politicians and business leaders in Kinshasa, was asked if Kabila would name his transitional team as promised. He told reporters: "The deadline expires today." State radio, renamed Voice of Congo, said members of Kabila's alliance were "in consultation with political personalities notably Etienne Tshisekedi," the most prominent opposition leader under the toppled regime of president Mobutu Sese Seko.

One newspaper, *Le Potentiel*, predicted that Kabila would make Tshisekedi his prime minister for the transition to a new constitution and, ultimately, full-scale elections.

Kabila declared himself president of the renamed Democratic Republic of Congo on Saturday as his forces entered Kinshasa a day after Mobutu relinquished power



Supporters of rebel leader Laurent Kabila await his return to Kinshasa.

(Reuters)

and fled.

But he has so far remained in the second city of Lubumbashi, far to the east, and while a DC-9 plane carrying his aides and top officials left there for Kinshasa earlier in the day, there was no sign of Kabila himself.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba's plane landed at the airport in Lubumbashi earlier, apparently to fly out Kabila, and rebel alliance troops secured the area.

But after the DC-9 left for Kinshasa, troops withdrew from around Chiluba's aircraft aboard two trucks, giving the impression that no takeoff was imminent.

"We do not discuss the president's movements," said a senior rebel official.

Crowds started surging towards Kinshasa airport on the eastern outskirts of the city of five million people following rumors that Kabila was due to arrive from

Lubumbashi.

Kabila's alliance soldiers, who captured Kinshasa at the weekend after a seven-month guerrilla advance from the eastern border with Rwanda, kept the excited crowds from getting too close to the airport, which is closed to commercial traffic but believed to be in operating condition.

The ailing Mobutu prolonged his stay in the West African state of Togo on health grounds yesterday after his flight into exile left him "very, very weak," a government source said.

Mobutu, stricken with cancer, arrived in the Togolese capital on Sunday night on a Russian-made cargo plane from his jungle palace Gbadolite in the extreme north of his country.

An unconfirmed report on Togo television said Mobutu had to leave Gbadolite in a hurry and that rebels fired on the plane as it took

him on the first leg of his flight into exile.

Alliance finance adviser Mawampanga Mwana Nanga told reporters it would stick to its promise to hold elections within one year, but that Mobutu's supporters would be excluded from a transitional government.

Asked by reporters if and when there would be elections, Mawampanga said: "Definitely...The president (Kabila) has said within 12 months." The United States and South Africa have led appeals to the alliance to form a broad-based government in the wake of their victory including members of the civilian opposition to Mobutu.

Individual politicians, but not political parties, would be represented in the transitional government and Mobutu supporters would not be involved, Mawampanga said.

54 injured in Cyprus 'peace' concert

News agencies

NICOSIA — The traditional calm of Cyprus was shattered by a night of rioting by Greek Cypriots angered at a UN-sponsored concert that was intended to promote reconciliation on this divided island.

The Cyprus government last night strongly condemned the rioting in the capital.

The violence, among the worst to hit the usually quiet city in recent years, injured 54 in nearly three hours of clashes between youths and riot police.

"There was a sad discord by irresponsible troublemakers who committed unacceptable acts, including assaults and vandalism aimed at obstructing citizens of the republic in exercising their constitutional right to gather peacefully and declare their desire for the peaceful co-existence of Greek and Turkish Cypriots," said spokesman Manolis Christofides.

Fifty-four people were arrested and were to appear in court later today, police said. "Their aim was to break through the roadblocks and to terrorize people. When that failed they resorted to all this hooliganism," said police spokesman Glafcos Xenos.

Town workers worked all night to clean up the streets strewn with smashed window glass, smouldering plastic dumpsters, bricks and stones. The area looked almost normal yesterday, apart from a few smashed shop windows.

The protesters initially tried to storm Monday night's concert in the UN-paralled zone that splits the capital into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sectors.

Helmeted riot police manning barbed-wire barricades around the concert site used clubs and tear gas to push back the demonstrators. They retreated, then smashed the windows of stores and lit bonfires in the streets.

Police spokesman Glafcos Xenos said shops on six streets sustained damage. He said that seven police vehicles and two motorcycles also were damaged.

There was no immediate estimate of the cost of the damages.

The concert, organized jointly by the United States and the United Nations, was the first event to bring together young people from both the North and South since the island's unofficial partition in 1974.

The 4,000 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot teen-agers estimated by the United Nations in the audience seemed to ignore the protests, many of them singing and dancing together in rare scenes of harmony.

The UN Resident Representative Gustave Feissel hailed the concert as a success despite the rioting.

"The young people sent the right message across the island, which hopefully will be received by the others," said Feissel.

There had been opposition to the concert on both sides of the island. Some had to do with the date of its staging.

Monday marked the annual "Day of Mourning and Remembrance" observed in both Greece and Cyprus for 350,000 Greeks from the Black Sea region killed by Turkish troops in a series of pogroms at the end of World War II.

Woman pilot's court-martial for adultery put on hold

MINOT, North Dakota (AP) — Court-martial proceedings were delayed yesterday for the first US woman B-52 bomber pilot as court officials awaited the Pentagon's permission to go ahead.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Kelly Flinn, faces trial on charges of adultery and disobedience.

"We're in a holding mode," Air Force spokesman Maj. Joe LaMarca said. He said Pentagon approval was needed because of Flinn's request that she be allowed to resign with an honorable discharge instead of face trial on charges of adultery, lying and disobedience. He called it "standard procedure" when such a request is pending.

Air Force officials in Minot asked the Pentagon for the go-ahead and



1st Lt. Kelly Flinn

(AP)

did not know when they would get a response, LaMarca said.

Earlier yesterday, Flinn entered the base courthouse in full blue military garb, remaining stern and quiet in the presence of reporters.

Russian satellite launcher explodes

MOSCOW (AP) — A booster rocket carrying a Russian military satellite exploded less than a minute after launch yesterday, dealing another blow to Russia's beleaguered space program and casting doubt over deals to launch commercial satellites.

The 460-ton Zenit-2 booster crashed on the steppe in a powerful blast as its first-stage engine failed 48 seconds after it was launched from Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome at 11:07 a.m., said Russia's military space force spokesman Ivan Safonov.

There were no casualties, as local residents were evacuated from nearby villages as a regular precaution. Russia has an agreement with Kazakhstan to use Baikonur, the former Soviet Union's main cosmodrome, for some of its

space launches.

Helicopters spotted fragments of the two-stage, 57-meter long booster and the Kosmos series military satellite some 13 km from the launch pad.

A commission has begun an investigation into the reasons for the failure, the spokesman said. Officials put the damage at 100 billion rubles (\$17.2 million).

The failed launch came as workers in Baikonur were making final preparations for the launch of an American communications satellite scheduled for Saturday.

The Telstar 5 satellite, built by the US Space Systems Loral company and intended for television broadcasts, is to be put into orbit by a Proton-K booster.

Deprived of the ample funding and prestige it enjoyed during the Soviet era, Russia's ailing space industry has pinned its hopes for survival on commercial satellite launches as well as other international programs.

A string of recent accidents on board the Mir orbiting station — including a small fire, a coolant leak and a failure of the main oxygen-generating system — have added to Russia's woes.

Yesterday's accident was the Zenit-2's 28th launch and seventh failure since 1985. It came as a blow not only to Russia, but also to the neighboring former Soviet republic of Ukraine, which provides some 40 percent of components for the missile.

British virgins celebrated

LONDON (AP) — A group of Catholic women held a special Catholic mass to celebrate their consecration as virgins in the church — a practice that returned to Britain in the 1970s after centuries of disuse, a church spokesman said yesterday.

The women celebrated their virginity vows, which include pledges to devote their lives to prayer and good works, at a special mass at the Cathedral Church of St. Mary and St. Boniface in Plymouth.

News reports said there were 100 virgins, aged between 21

and 65, at the ceremony. They are not nuns, but lay women who had previously taken vows of celibacy.

"It's an old tradition in the Catholic church, where people consecrate themselves to a life of virginity," said the Rev. Kieran Conry, a church spokesman.

"I don't know how many there are in this country or around the world, but it is back," Conry said.

Elizabeth Bailey, who in 1972 became the first consecrated virgin in Britain in modern times, was the organizer of the special mass.

Afghan Taleban stalk Shi'ite city

Islamic forces within five kilometers of Bamiyan

KABUL (Reuters) — The fundamentalist Islamic Taleban militia said its forces had captured the strategic Shibar Pass yesterday and had advanced to within five km of the Shi'ite stronghold of Bamiyan in central Afghanistan.

Mullah Said Mohammad Haqqani, a Taleban spokesman, said Taleban fighters "could enter Bamiyan any time this evening."

There was no independent confirmation of the reported gain by the Taleban, who have been trying for months to dislodge the Shi'ite opposition Hezb-i-Wahdat faction from the Shibar Pass.

But an opposition spokesman denied previous claims by the Taleban that they had seized the strategic pass, which leads to Bamiyan and also commands a route to the north.

The Taleban, armed in Sheikh Ali (at the foot of the Shibar Pass) at around 9 a.m. and the attack continued until around 2 p.m., he said. "The attack was repulsed and they left some casualties there. At the moment it's all quiet."

Hezb-i-Wahdat is one of three Taleban factions in a loose anti-Taleban alliance formed after the

Islamic movement captured the Afghan capital Kabul in September.

The alliance took a body blow on Monday when General Abdul Malik, a key commander in the forces of northern General Abdul Rashid Dostum, launched a pro-Taleban uprising in the north.

"(General Abdul Rashid) Dostum will soon drown in the people's anger, because the people are mujahideen (strugglers) who have given sacrifices and want an Islamic government," said Taleban Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi.

The Taleban already control Kabul and most of the country. Maulvi Wakil Ahmad, a Taleban official based in the southern city of Kandahar, said anti-Dostum forces had seized Konduz and Sar-i-Pul, capitals of Kunduz and Jowzjan provinces yesterday.

But Mutaqi told a news conference in Kabul later yesterday that the Taleban had captured all of two provinces in the north. "Faryab and Sar-i-Pul have been totally captured and Islamic flags are flying over them," Mutaqi said.

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HAIFA 20 Nordau, Halar Hacamel, Telephone: 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
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Diplomatic moves

The chair-shuffling exercise likely to be triggered by the reassignment of Ambassador to the United States Eliahu Ben-Elissar is a welcome and overdue sign of readjustment within the Netanyahu government. It should be the beginning, rather than the end, of a wider house-cleaning as the government approaches the end of its first year in office.

In this initial round of changes, Ben-Elissar will reportedly return to some senior post in Israel, and foreign policy adviser Dore Gold, or perhaps former ambassador Zalmay Shoval will replace him in Washington. Communications adviser David Bar-Ilan will become Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, while former Mossad research chief Uzi Arad is slated to replace Gold as Netanyahu's chief foreign policy adviser.

All of these changes make sense, but most important is the change that allows all of this to happen — the removal of Ben-Elissar. Though Ben-Elissar had already served as Israel's first ambassador to Egypt, there were doubts from the beginning whether he was the right man for Washington.

Ben-Elissar is a politician at heart, and while some politicians make good diplomats, he has proved not to be such an exception. It is the job of a diplomat to soften edges, bridge differences, soothe egos, and press the flesh. While any diplomat must remember whom they are representing and not succumb to "clientitis," neither is the siege mentality of a right-wing ideologue appropriate for Washington. It is a bit late in the game, for example, for Ben-Elissar to have avoided meeting Arafat in Washington. Diplomacy is a high art in Washington, demanding convictions and a strong center, but also subtlety and access to the principals back home.

Ben-Elissar, as a compromise choice between Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy, did not begin his tenure with Netanyahu's trust, nor did he build trust over time. For months now, Netanyahu has reportedly felt that "we have no ambassador in Washington." Israel

needs an ambassador who understands Washington and Americans, has the confidence of the prime minister, and can work with the foreign minister.

Given Ben-Elissar's failings, Levy should not be allowed to veto the removal of "his man" in Washington. Normally, the foreign minister should have a strong say in the appointment of ambassadors. But Levy has abused that right by insisting on a string of awful diplomatic appointments. Uri Oren, a long-time Levy associate, was appointed ambassador to South Africa, despite scathing criticism of his poor performance as consul-general in Los Angeles. And Levy demanded that Shmuel Siso be appointed consul-general in New York, despite his inability to even speak English.

Ambassadorial appointments are known world over to be susceptible to cronyism, and sometimes as a dumping ground for politicians who must simultaneously be rewarded and exiled. In the US, the Bush administration got in trouble for naming some ambassadors whose only qualification seemed to be that they had given over \$100,000 to the Republican party.

Israel is not, however, on such diplomatically secure ground, even in the best of times, that it can afford to play politics with the most important posts around the world. It is a scandal, for example, that for almost a year Israel has had no permanent ambassador at the United Nations, because Netanyahu and Levy until now have failed to agree on a nomination.

The package of appointments now under discussion reflects the sort of seriousness that should have been in evidence from the beginning of the Netanyahu government, but it is better late than never. If, however, the prime minister cannot get his way even on these postings, it is hard to see how he will tackle the cabinet shuffle that remains poised in the air since Ya'acov Ne'eman's acquittal. Clearing house alone may not be sufficient to put the government on a smoother track, but it is certainly necessary, and will be a good sign that Netanyahu can learn from past mistakes.

The French way

France has entered its last week of campaigning before voters go to the polls on Sunday, but anyone expecting the recent British political revolution to cross the Channel will be disappointed. If "fresh" is an appropriate word to describe the new British parliament, in France "fudge" probably will still do.

At the end of the 1990s, France is acquiring a faded patina of the 1890s like an old dowager lost in her memories of past glamor. In a world gone fanatical on free markets and high technology as a kind of economic religion, it is difficult not to look at France with a certain wistful admiration — while being perfectly aware that its old ways really don't work any more.

France is having trouble coming to grips with the dawn of a new century because it is so reluctant to part with the comforts of the old one. The resistance is compounded by the fact that its leaders insist on seeing the lean and shiny new economic policies as suspiciously "Anglo-Saxon" — that cultural buzzword that makes every patriotic Frenchman shudder. Thus we saw such odd anomalies as the fact that France was the first European country to be "wired" to its excellent Minitel computer network a decade before anyone else came up with a similar idea and yet it is among the last to embrace and exploit the global Internet. The suspicion

remains that Minitel was a success because it was perceived culturally as quintessentially French, while the Internet — horror of horrors — is another dread Anglo-Saxon conspiracy.

This observation is meant to be somewhat whimsical — but it does illustrate the image of total confusion that has marked the current election campaign. While seeking some sense of France's identity in the new world, its politicians seem bent on carving their place in it with blunt and ancient tools. Although center-right Prime Minister Alain Juppe is preaching tax cuts, more privatization, smaller government, and strict adherence to the measures needed for a single European currency, the leftist opposition leader, Lionel Jospin, remains a believer in the state and wants to create another 350,000 public sector jobs. He is against privatization, for the welfare state and workers' rights, and for a 35-hour work week with no pay cuts. Jospin certainly will not be mistaken for the Bill Clinton or Tony Blair of the French left.

Of course, even if he wins the election, France will hardly expect any lurch to the left as the country will return to another absurdly Gallic institution, *cohabitation*, where Jospin would share unequal power with the rightist President Jacques Chirac. As the (appropriately) French proverb says — the more things change, the more likely they are to stay the same.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ISRAELI POLICE

Sir, — It would be incredible if we hadn't heard it with our own ears: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his stooges accuse the police of "trying to overthrow the legally elected government" by underhand means!

Who controls the police? Since last May, not the Labor opposition, but Netanyahu's own government, but Netanyahu's own government, if there are corrupt "elements" motivated by political prejudice, within his own police, why didn't Netanyahu root them out during the past 10 months?

Who asked the "corrupt" police to investigate the allegations? None other than Benjamin Netanyahu himself!

MISHA LOUVISH

Jerusalem.

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

Sir, — The advertisement, "Dennis, go home!" (May 8) is in the worst of bad taste and should never have been accepted. While freedom of speech is sacrosanct, as is an editor's right to publish what he finds acceptable, there must surely be a level where invective of the type used in the ad ought not to be printed.

KENNETH BERG

Netanya.

ENGLISH TV NEWS

Sir, — Does the Israel Broadcasting Authority really intend to cut out the English TV news? I cannot think of a more inappropriate cut than this. The English news counteracts the slanted and false news on the BBC, CNN and Sky, so why give them a free field to spread their insidious propaganda? I think it is worth every agora spent on the right of the non-Hebrew-speaking world to know what is really happening. They should cut out part of some talk-show instead.

EVA MEISLER

Jerusalem.

WONDERFUL NEWS

Sir, — Just as in every other place, newspaper headlines seem inevitably to discourage the reader and convince him/her that everything is bad and getting worse. For that reason, it was wonderful to read of the Supreme Court decision concerning the granting of the Israel Prize for Journalism to Mr. Schnitzer in the light of his sordid attack on his fellow Jews for reasons that are best dismissed with disgust.

DR. A.D. SOLOMON

Omer.

A CHINESE CONNECTION

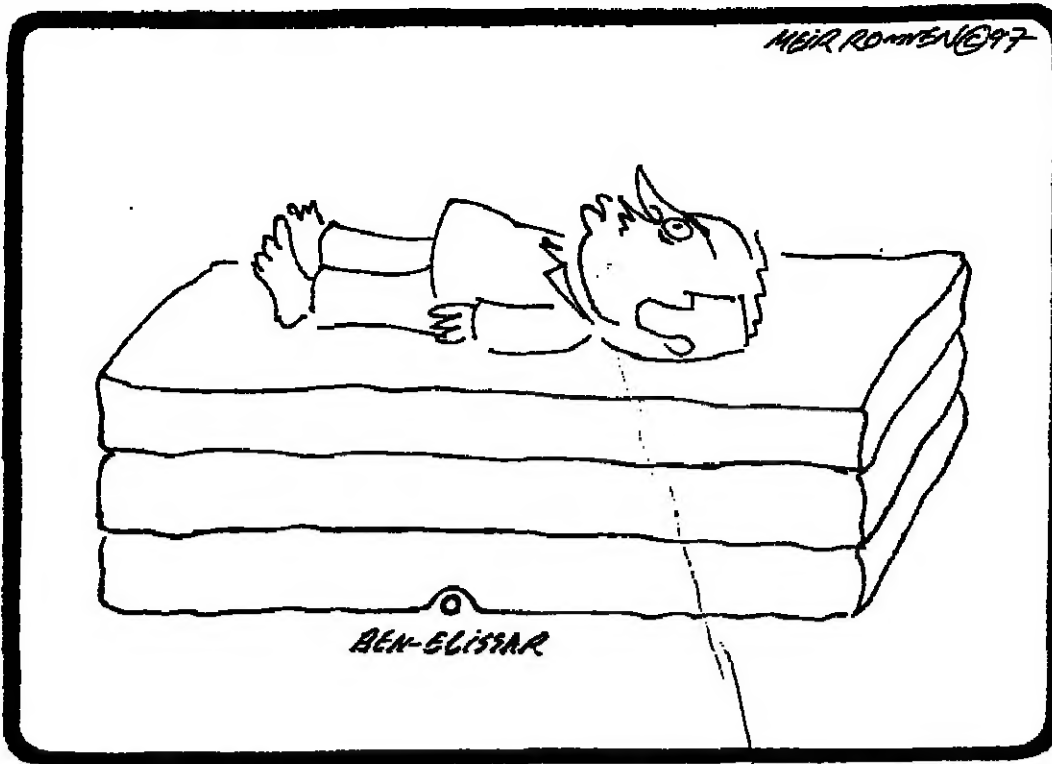
Sir, — Ten years ago, when I was in China, I read a report in English on president Chaim Herzog and was deeply affected by his glorious achievements. So that more people in China should know him, I wrote a long article on him in Chinese in 1992 in an important magazine in China. President Herzog received me in Beijing on December 1992, when he visited China.

Five years ago, my father visited Israel. President Herzog received him in his office in Jerusalem, and gave him and me his book, *Heroes of Israel*, which with the help of my father, I translated into Chinese, and published last year in China. After studying in a yeshiva for over a year in Jerusalem, I am now studying for a master's degree here.

I wrote to him in September last year, and he replied, inviting me to dinner. I am overcome with regret at his death. President Herzog will live forever in our hearts; his courageous spirit will always inspire us.

FAN SHILEI

Psagot.



Coexistence rejected

Lost amid the furor over the government's decision to build at Har Homa is the more significant question of why most Palestinians reject the idea of permanent Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

A recent sample of 1,152 Palestinians surveyed by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center revealed that only 24 percent believed Jewish settlers should be permitted to remain under Palestinian sovereignty in a future Palestinian state.

From this figure two disturbing questions arise: Why the overwhelming rejection of Jews in the territories, and what does this rejection mean?

Palestinian opposition to the settlements seems to be centered around three general assumptions, each of which overestimates the threat posed by the Jewish settlements to the security, sovereignty and dignity of a future Palestinian state.

These assumptions, rarely analyzed in the media, need closer evaluation in order to better understand Palestinians' rejections of the settlers.

Assumption 1: The settlers represent a demographic threat to the Arab character of a future Palestine.

This argument has little factual merit, as only 11 percent of people residing in the West Bank are Jews. When the Gaza Strip is included the figure drops to 7 percent.

Even if Jewish settlement continues at the same pace over the next four years as over the last four, the Jewish population will still only make up around 10-12 percent of the total population in the territories by the year 2001, taking birthrates into account.

Furthermore, this percentage could decrease significantly if the already-existing settlements just east of the Green Line are annexed to Israel under a final status arrangement.

These demographics suggest that when a Palestinian state comes into being, Arabs, and not Jews, will permanently control the levers of power, and with it the distribution of economic and natural resources. Even with Jewish settlements dotting the land, the future Palestinian state will be

STEPHEN RUKEN

fundamentally and overwhelmingly Arab.

Assumption 2: Jewish settlers represent a security threat to the future Palestinian state.

The settlers the Palestinians fear most are those in the strongest opposition to the creation of such a state. It seems reasonable to assume, however, that the majority of those strongly opposed — with

Why the Palestinian objection to Jews in the territories, and what does it mean?

the possible exception of the "messianically-inclined" — would leave Palestine once it came into existence, and return to Israel.

The settlers who choose to stay across the Green Line might not fully support the new Palestinian state, but they would probably be willing to live peacefully in it, or at least give it a try.

Of course, the trickiest issue for both the Palestinian and Israeli governments is to ensure the physical security of both the Arab and Jewish communities in Palestine.

If the Palestinian government were to choose to disarm the settlers, it could expect a significant increase in Israeli and international pressure to protect its minority Jewish population — in other words, to behave as any reasonable government must.

Assumption 3: The settlements are a cultural affront to Palestinian dignity.

Driving through the West Bank, one can better understand how the Palestinians came to view Jewish settlements (especially those on hillsides) as a symbol of Israeli oppression and arrogance.

But it is necessary to look beyond symbolism and be practical. Aside from isolated incidents of settler extremism, are the settlements themselves causing the Palestinians significant harm? Do the West Bank and Gaza economies suffer from their existence?

While the Palestinians may view the settlers as usurpers of natural resources, and settlement expansion as unfairly intrusive, a more positive approach for both groups would be to recognize the settlements as potential assets in a future Palestine.

The settlers' relatively high levels of education and wealth, combined with their extensive contacts with businesses in Israel, leaves them poised to make significant contributions to the growth of the Palestinian economy.

What, then, does Palestinian rejection of the settlements mean? If one accepts the notion that the principle of national self-determination should apply to residents of the territories, then it is logical to sympathize with Palestinian opposition to any current or future increase of settlement activity, on the grounds that such decisions would be more appropriately made by the Palestinians themselves rather than by the Israeli government.

However, the message that the vast majority of Palestinians convey in rejecting existing Jewish settlements is that the two groups cannot and should not coexist together — at least not in Palestine.

The disturbing implication is that the future Palestinian state will not possess a fundamental characteristic of any mature, stable state: the full acceptance of minorities living within its boundaries.

Rather than emphasizing the extent to which Jewish settlements threaten the peace process, Palestinian elites should be reassuring Jews and Palestinians alike that the settlers must receive full minority rights.

This would represent an important early step in lowering the psychological barriers that exist between Jewish settlers and Arabs, and reassure both groups that the future Palestine will be a secure and fair place in which to live.

The writer is a research assistant at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, and a doctoral candidate in political science at the University of California.

My mother can't remember

For decades, my mother was a staunch disciple of the celebrated nutritionists Cayelord Hauser and Adelle Davis. My brother, sister and I ate what other kids ate, but enhanced.

My mother stirred brewers' yeast into our fruit juice, blackstrap molasses into our milk. She put soy flour in the biscuits and kelp in the soup.

Once, after buying a vegetable juicer, the family drank so much carrot juice that our palms turned orange. My mother had a stratagem to get us started on new foods. If she wanted us to try wheat germ, she'd sprinkle a little on our oatmeal. Each week she'd add more. Soon we were devouring bowls of the stuff.

Now, time has played a similar trick on her — but with a cruel reversal. Bit by bit, Alzheimer's disease has erased the nutritional knowledge from the table of my mother's memory.

Since my father, along with many other tasks, has had to take over the shopping and meal preparation, I'm worried that he and my mother are no longer eating wisely.

I call my brother, who still lives near our parents in Olympia, Washington. "Mom and Dad are fine," he assures me. "I had a great supper with them last week." "What did you have?" I ask. "Brownies," he says.

When I fly home for a visit, I find the yogurt maker and canisters of whole grain flour gathering dust. The freezer is full of pizzas.

JENJOY LA BELLE

Offering to fix dinner, I head for the supermarket. When I return in the afternoon, my parents are sitting by the fire chatting and eating chocolate pudding.

"Why are you eating that," I scold, "when you know I'm planning a nourishing dinner?" "It tastes good," my mother says.

She has Alzheimer's. But so what — she's in love, and happy

"And it goes well with wine," adds my father, pointing to two empty glasses.

NEXT morning, my boyfriend takes us out for breakfast.

My mother is bewildered by the menu. "What's a blintz?" she asks. "What's a waffle? What's a French toast?"

"Oh, Mama," I say impatiently, "you know all about French toast. You've made it 1,000 times." But I speak more in sorrow than in anger.

My mother finally orders an omelet. "I'm not sure what it is," she confides to me, "but I think I used to teach it."

I can't always follow the leaps of her mind, but this time I do, and it cuts to the heart. My mother was an English teacher. Now "Hamlet" and "Omelet" are

scrambled together into meaningless sounds.

When her order arrives my mother drizzles honey over it. She strews blue and pink packets of sweetener on top. She gives the mess a good stir with her spoon, then pushes it away. She may have Alzheimer's, but she's not crazy.

She leans close to my father, and begins eating his pancake. Suddenly she notices the little glass of maple syrup. "Is that whiskey?" she asks in astonishment.

For a giddy instant I hope it is. I'd gulp it down in one swig, call for the rest of the bottle, and we'd all get looped enough to forget that my mother can't remember.

But the fantasy passes. And soon we're laughing because she has so startlingly recalled the name of something she's never had a drop of in her life.

I realize that my mother won't be growing her own bean sprouts or baking her famous liver loaf again, but all is not lost. She's given her recipes to my sister, who probably at this moment is sprinkling wheat germ on her kids' cereal.

My parents have already lived longer than Adelle Davis by a dozen years. Let them eat cake. Let them eat brownies. They're in their '80s, in love and happy.

Maybe the next time I'm home, they'll share with me their late afternoon fire, wine and just desserts.

(Los Angeles Times)

Bribe & drive

JOEL GORDIN

This week 13 driving examiners and — at the time of writing — four driving school owners were arrested for offering and accepting bribes. The arrests came as no surprise to many who have had dealings with the licensing authorities over the years: eyebrows were raised only at the number of people involved, and at the amount of money that allegedly changed hands.

For years it has been evident that something is rotten in the way Israelis get their driving licenses.

Motoring writers, including this one, have complained endlessly that the compulsory course of driving lessons is unnecessary and too expensive, and that the tests are ridiculously pedantic and out of touch with modern motoring reality.

Israel must be the only country in the Western world where would-be drivers are forced to take a course of lessons at a driving school. In the US, the UK and Western Europe, anyone can be taught to drive by their parents or any other licensed driver. The schools are an option only for those who want them.

In Israel, driving students must take a minimum of 28 lessons at NIS 75 per lesson for a standard shift automobile, more for an automatic automobile, a "B" class van, or a heavy truck. That makes the cost of learning to drive a minimum of NIS 2,000 — before the first test.

When they get to the test, students are often failed for the most paltry reasons: They didn't keep the shift in first gear while waiting at a red light, or took a hand off the steering wheel to rub their noses.

Most examiners fail students who cannot reverse-park into a space on the first attempt. How many veteran drivers can do it? Some years ago, a local Tel

It has long been evident that something is rotten in the way Israelis get their licenses

Aviv newspaper got the visiting world women's rally champion, Italy's Claudia Giovannini, to take an Israeli driving test anonymously. She failed.

THERE seems to be no logic to the system. In many cases, the examiner — who himself needs no special qualifications other than 12 years of schooling and a valid driving license — simply notes that a failed pupil "lacked control," or "took turns too wide." There is no appeal.

Many rational, intelligent people who passed their tests the second, third or fourth time told me they "drove no differently" than time from when they failed. Examiners have absolute power, which, as we know, corrupts absolutely.

Over the years there have been stories of examiners discriminating against middle-aged women and favouring pretty young ones. The word "bribery" has bounced backwards and forwards, but was proved in only a few cases (some three years ago at the Rehovot Licensing Department, for example.)

Today thousands of citizens must be wondering if the reason they failed their tests was because they didn't leave a little something in an envelope in the glove compartment.

The Transport Ministry explains the pricey lessons and over-harsh testing as being "in the interests of road safety." If so, why is the road accident rate here far higher per capita than in the US, the UK or Western Europe?

Accidents usually don't occur because drivers don't know how to drive. They are almost always caused by lack of consideration, recklessness, lawlessness and inexperience.

When bad driving is to blame, it is because the driver didn't know how to brake in an emergency or take evasive action (these, by the way, aren't taught by driving schools because they are not in the test). It is not because the driver failed to leave the gear in first at a red light, or bungled a reverse-park at first attempt.

Expensive lessons and severe (and often abusive) examiners lead many would-be drivers to despair of ever getting a license by fair, legal means.

Factor in the greed of many driving schools and the absolute power of underpaid examiners, and you have the perfect recipe for corruption — and this terrifying scenario: Drivers who barely know the gas pedal from the brake being able to buy a license to kill.

The writer contributes a motoring column to The Jerusalem Post.

طابا من الله

GRAPEVINE

A glamorous 15th Knesset?

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

If all the celebrities who have announced their intention to run for the Knesset follow through and are elected, the 15th Knesset promises to be the most glamorous to date. Hot on the heels of Dudu Topaz, Penina Rosenblum and Helena Amram is expatriate Uri Geller, whose desire to influence the peace process may bring him home.

AFTER PROVIDING a bellyful of laughs for members of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, comedian Tuvia Tsafir was made an honorary member of AACTI and given symbolic items of Americana such as bubble gum, a comic, an AACTI totebag and a baseball cap. Tsafir accepted them with equanimity and then asked: "Where's the green card?"

NOT EVERYONE attending a premiere is invited to the after-theater party, which is why organizers wait for the crowds to clear before opening the doors to the reception area. However, the first-night crowd attending the premiere of the Vienna State Opera Ballet at the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts took so long to disperse, that the word went out that the side-stage reception hosted by Austrian Ambassador Herbert Kroll and his wife Noracny had been canceled. Since few of the invitees knew where the side stage was located, several left without enjoying the Kroll's hospitality. But there were quite a few savvy people who weren't invited who knew that good things come to those who wait. When the direction to the side stage was made public, they merely tagged along.

Renato Zanella, ballet director and chief choreographer of the VSOB, who garnered a great deal of congratulatory comment, has come to Israel as a dancer on several previous occasions but never before as the head of the company. Seen in the audience were patron of the arts Oded Gera, actress Hanna



Mick Jagger: Gazing at the stars. (UPPA)

Marron. Tel Aviv University President Yoram Dinstein and his wife Ada, advertising executive David Admon, and Shimon Sheves, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

NEWS FROM Israel is par for the course on the American electronic media, but listeners tuned into San Francisco's KGO *NewsTalk* earlier this month got a giant dose when talk-show host Ron Owens, broadcasting live from Jerusalem for three consecutive days, chatted for three hours each day with Israeli and Palestinian newsmakers, commentators and politicians, on both important and mundane issues. Owens was part of a six-member team which included Michael Luckoff, the station's president and general manager, and Barbara Lane, the station's executive producer. The team turned a suite at the



Uri Geller: Member of Knesset? (Hanoach Guttmann)



Tuvia Tsafir: An honorary AACTI member

Laromne Hotel into a makeshift studio where personalities such as MK Naomi Chazan, former ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich, Ariel mayor Ron Nahman and Palestinian dignitaries Saeb Erekat, Nabil Shaath and Mahdi Abdel Haafi made themselves at home and presented varied outlooks.

Rabbi David Hartman and Mordechai Arnon were brought in to discuss their opposing points of view on Bar-Ilan Street. That wasn't all they disagreed on. When Arnon pulled out a packet of cigarettes, Hartman proclaimed: "No smoking here," to which Arnon retorted: "You don't have to smoke."

AN INTERESTING question for *Masquerade* or an Israeli version of *Trivial Pursuit* emerged last week at the Israel Association of University Women's 25th anniversary scholarship awards. One of the recipients, Galit Sa'ada from Sderot, the first member of her family with academic aspirations, won a scholarship for research into the ethnography of music. The daughter of Libyan immigrants, Sa'ada who already has an MA in musicology and sociology, has discovered that most of the rock groups which have formed in recent years emerged from her home town.

PAPARAZZI EAT your hearts out. After all that speculation over whether Liz Hurley was breaking up with Hugh Grant or at least giving him a dose of his own medicine, it seems the young man caught in the lens of the camera while applying suntan lotion to her back was none other than her kid brother. At least that's what she told David Letterman and anyone who happened to be watching his show.

WANTING TO give their children a closer view of the stars, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall took them to the local planetarium, which was crowded. Undaunted, Mick and Jerry loaded themselves and the kids back into the car and headed for the nearest NASA base, where they politely asked whether they could use the telescope. The scientists, though somewhat taken aback, decided to play it cool. They made the telescope available but didn't ask for autographs.

Surfing the net in a Ramallah cafe

Majed Totah has turned to the Internet to beat the competition. His cafe has faced since Ramallah's handover to Palestinian rule in 1995.

At one table in Totah's small KSM cafe, a Palestinian youth manipulated a computer mouse with one hand while holding a thick sandwich in the other.

Inexpensive restaurants have been a growth industry in Ramallah since Israel handed the town over to Palestinian self-rule.

In fact, restaurants have become so competitive a business that eateries new and old have laid on more than food to pull in customers, hiring bellydancers and bands and offering customers water pipes.

Totah is the first restaurateur to turn to the Internet. "The cafe is a home for people who don't have computers and for those who don't yet know the wonders of Internet services," said Totah, 34, sitting in his cafe.

As he spoke, customers at another table abandoned their food and wandered across the room to look over the youth's shoulder.

"I am chatting with my friends who live overseas," said Najwa Harbath, a lawyer in her early 30s as she sat sipping coffee and smoking at another of the cafe's four computers. "Although I have the Internet at

home, I was curious to know if the cafe has the same system," she said.

Totah said that most of his customers were not sufficiently computer-educated and he wanted to teach them the benefits of the computer and the Internet.

He said the Internet had been bringing in new customers who

"The cafe is home for people who don't have computers and for those who don't yet know the wonders of Internet services."

often fill the cafe at night. "Every day we have new customers. It will take time, but it's a good start," he said.

He has installed four Pentium computers at KSM—a name signifying the number of Totah's siblings and their initials. Is the computer invest-

ment worth it?

"Maybe not, but definitely it's worth the experience. It's the first of its kind and it is aimed at both helping people and attracting new customers," Totah said.

Since it opened in 1985, KSM has been famous among the youth in Ramallah for its sandwiches, pastas, pizza and desserts. It has also attracted high-school and university students, teachers, and families living in the neighborhood.

Newspapers, pens and papers were neatly stacked on tables while Western pop music played in the background.

"KSM is a perfect place for students who need to research information through the Internet away from the pressures of classrooms or libraries," said a KSM press release.

"I have been using the Internet from home for most of my dealings, so I decided to show others the benefits of the new technology and to give those who need it a hand," Totah said.

KSM has contracted four employees of the local Internet provider to help customers. The help couldn't come at a better time. The people who abandoned their food earlier sat staring helplessly at a computer screen. Totah broke away from the interview to launch them on the information superhighway. (Reuter)

PARENTING

Where children never fight

By RUTH MASON

Jean Liedloff spent a total of two-and-a-half years living with the Yequana Indians in the Venezuelan jungles. She describes them as an isolated Stone Age tribe, yet, on every measure of well-being that she could think of, Liedloff found the Yequana to be better off than Westerners. Their daily lives were spent in what she calls a party atmosphere, with a lot of laughing and joking. Their relationships were non-judgmental and respectful, and she never witnessed any arguing, fighting or sibling rivalry. In her book *The Continuum Concept: Allowing Human Nature to Work Successfully* (Addison-Wesley, 1977), Liedloff claims that even the children never fight.

Competition of any sort, even in games, is unknown. Joy, rather than the unhappiness often found in Western culture, prevails.

Perhaps the most stunning of her findings is that Yequana babies rarely cry. They are relaxed and quiet and they don't ever spit up. Boys are given small bows and arrows from the age of 18 months, but are not warned to be careful. The adults, Liedloff says, have complete faith in their child's self-preservation instincts and don't warn them about rushing rivers, scorpions, snakes and other dangers of the jungle. A mother walking on a jungle path with a toddler following her will not turn around to make sure he is near. She just expects and assumes he will be, and, according to Liedloff, he always is.

In the time she spent with the Yequana, Liedloff says she saw only one accident.

After babyhood, Yequana parents and other adults don't initiate contact or activity with their children but are readily available when the children need them. Children spend most of their time with their peers, as do the adults. Liedloff attributes the joy, serenity and peace of the Yequana to the fact that babies, from the

moment of birth until crawling age, are constantly carried. The mother, other adult or older sibling, will carry a baby—either in their arms or in a sling—at all times while they are working, cooking, dancing, bathing or walking. Babies sleep with their parents.

Liedloff believes that this "in-arms" phase is as old as evolution itself and that babies were treated this way for millions of years by humans and our evolutionary antecedents. It is only in the past few thousand years—a tiny dot on the evolutionary map—that we have strayed from this practice with. Liedloff claims dire consequences.

Liedloff and the Yequana Indians believe that a baby's rightful, natural place is in the arms of its mother or

The Yequana Indians believe a baby's natural place is in the arms of its mother.

other caretaker. This constant closeness to the mother's body gives the baby a feeling of security, wholeness, or being "right" and influences his whole life as well as that of his society. Westerners who miss this phase never lose their sense of not being "right," of longing for something they can't quite name, of loss.

While they are constantly with the mother or other caretaker, Yequana babies are not the center of attention. Instead, they live on the periphery, being present at all activities but not at their center. From their safe and protected vantage point, they learn about life and get all the stimulation they need. Infants' signals are immediately responded to and they are put down only when they signal that

they want to be, when they are ready to crawl.

Liedloff believes that the Yequana's joyful life is due to the fact that they are still in touch with their "continuum," or the built-in instinctive knowledge, with which we are all born, of the way human beings are supposed to live. She attributes Western ills, from alienation to drug addiction, crime and violence, to the fact that we have been cut off from our natural continuum.

"It is understandable," she writes "that Western babies are not welcome in offices, shops, workrooms, or even dinner parties. They usually shriek and kick, wave their arms and stiffen their bodies, so that one needs two hands and a lot of attention to keep them under control. It seems that they are keyed up with undischarged energy from spending so much time out of contact with an active person's naturally discharging energy field. We need to recognize that, by treating babies the way we did for hundreds of thousands of years, we can be assured of calm, soft, understanding little creatures. Only then can working mothers, unwilling to be bored and isolated all day with no adult companionship, rid themselves of their cruel conflict."

"Babies taken to work are where they need to be—with their mothers. And the mothers are where they need to be—with their peers, not doing baby care but something worthy of intelligent adults."

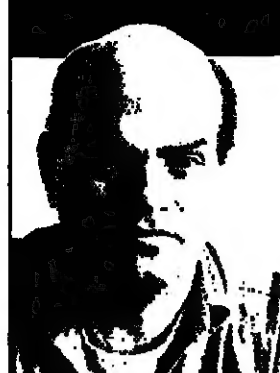
The Continuum Concept was reissued with a new introduction in 1985 as part of Addison Wesley's Classics in Child Development series. John Holt, the noted writer and educator, wrote about it: "If the world could be saved by a book, this just might be the book."

While Liedloff seems fairly subjective in her descriptions of both the Yequana and Western baby care practices, she offers fascinating insights that could go a long way in improving our babies—and our own—lives.

Not Page One

Embassies in the capital? Bad idea

By Sam Orbaum



The year is 2525. Syria rejects negotiations based on Oslo 89. The Moshiah's arrival is said to be imminent. The Swiss agree to return the gold to any survivor who comes forward to ask for it. And the US reneges on its offer to move its embassy to Jerusalem.

Some things never change, and never will, and if I live to be 569 years old, I will still wonder how the world won't accept Jerusalem, or at least the western sector, as this country's capital.

Forgive the simplicity, but what barrier of rationality prevents a friendly foreign country from establishing its mission in undisputed Jewish Jerusalem? Sure, the Arabs will squawk—they'll have to—but a few choice diplomatic words, such as "Well, it's their capital, where do you expect us to

tolerate only because they're mere consulates—would become intolerably insulting when embassies start doing it.

The high-living diplomats would leave The City That Never Stops for The City That Never Stops Praying.

Yeah, OK, we have parties here in Jerusalem, but you know how it is: you can be the last one to leave the swiftestest bash in Jerusalem, get in your car, do dinner, and make it in time for the earliest party in Tel Aviv. Forgive us, but we've never fully recovered from the siege of '48.

Fashion shows would become de rigueur in Jerusalem, where the greatest fashion issue is what color your black clothes are.

Can you just imagine the, shall we say, differences of opinion between the diplomats and the hard-

The high-living diplomats would leave The City That Never Stops for The City That Never Stops Praying.

put the embassy?" will be difficult to refute. And then all the nice countries of the world will quickly fall into line and follow precedent.

Of course they will.

International diplomacy is not exactly a free-thinking discipline. It suffers from a herd mentality: when one moos, they all moo. All right, then: maybe all that's needed is to tweak a tail to get one of them mooing.

Which is why I'm offering this suggestion, free of charge, as a public service to the global village: first, do what's right by Israel, by moving all your embassies to the capital; then turn around and appease the Arabs by offering, as compensation, to place a consulate in eastern Jerusalem, thereby strengthening Palestinian claims. That would enrage Israel, mollify the Arabs, and leave the diplomats snickering into their champagne.

On the other hand, the last thing we need is all those embassies in our capital. It would mess up this country something terrible.

Think of it:

Half the population of Herzliya Pituah would move to Jerusalem. Property values in Tel Aviv's richest burbs would plummet, and skyrocket in Ein Kerem. The economic backlash would be staggering.

We'd have to come up with a few hundred fancy villas in—hal—Jerusalem, or risk having all those ambassadors recalled.

Fancy villas, that is, with rolling lawns and built-in swimming pools, in a city with little space and less water.

That obnoxious tradition of Jerusalem consulates hosting separate parties for Jews and Arabs—

im? The proliferation of treif food, the Shabbat infractions, those stinky goyish-looking women showing (gasp!) cleavage and thighs, the international incidents any time a diplo limo is stoned on Bar-Ilan Street...

Jerusalem's narrow roads don't cope very well with big cars. In some places it's impossible to squeeze through in a *nusur* without scraping parked cars on either side. Diplomats are notorious for parking wherever they damn well please (come to think of it, so are Israelis).

On the other hand, there'd be big savings for the Foreign Ministry, in phone calls and travel to the Tel Aviv region.

Wonder how much tax money we'd save from 1997 to 2525 if we just moved the FM to Herzliya Pituah?

Sez You!

What's the most startling thing your children or grandchildren have ever said? Now, we know how you folks can be, so we're setting a limit of two quotes per child—and an age limit of six. (We won't get nit-picky if the child is seven or eight, but we don't want to hear about a smartypants 20-year-old.)

They can be funny, cute, wise, insightful. Brag a bit, but keep it short, and don't make anything up: you'll only feel guilty afterward.

Send your contributions to Sam Orbaum, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, by fax to (02) 531-5622 or by e-mail to sam@jpost.co.il. Please include the name and age of your child, and your name and phone number.

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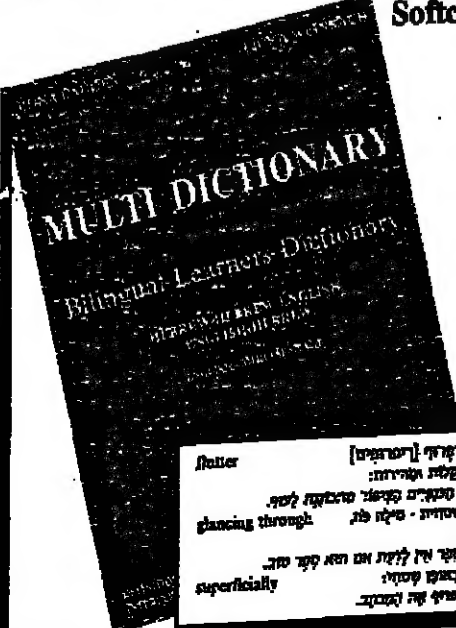
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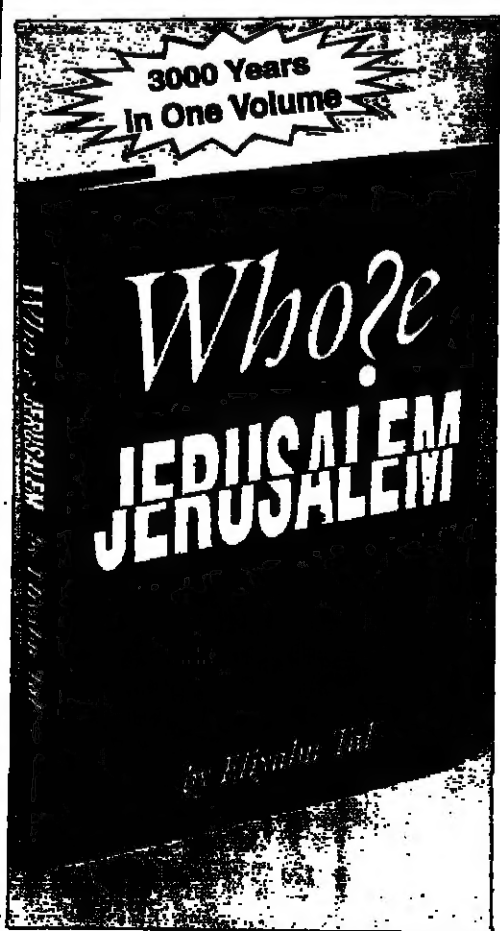
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BUSINESS

in brief

Low-tech investment aid requests down

The number of investment aid requests received by the Industry and Trade Ministry from overseas low-tech companies from January - May were down 40 percent from the same period last year, David Baruch, director of the ministry's Investment Center, said yesterday.

The sector includes such industries as food, plastics, chemicals, paper and metal. The decrease was attributed to the high cost of manufacturing such goods here. Requests by high-tech companies, including start-ups, increased 10%, Jennifer Friedlin

Meridor plans compulsory car insurance bill

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, in liaison with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, will introduce legislation in the coming weeks to open the compulsory motor vehicle insurance market to "supervised competition." The market is currently monopolized by Avner Insurance, but this must come to an end, said Meridor, speaking to members of the Knesset Law and Finance committees. The legislation has to be introduced before July 31, when the existing law expires.

David Harris

Sharansky to US next week

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky is expected to leave next week for a seven-day visit to the US, the ministry spokesman said yesterday. Sharansky's preliminary itinerary includes meetings with business representatives and visits to various firms in Georgia, New York and Texas.

Jennifer Friedlin

NIS 4m. for Kiryat Arba technology park

The Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday announced the allocation of NIS 4 million for a technology park in Kiryat Arba. The investment will go toward the establishment of factories to house Maycom-1 and SFM, two high-tech companies that came out of the ministry's incubator program. The ministry is currently planning to establish a joint 500-dunam industrial park for Gushi Etzion and Efrat.

Jennifer Friedlin

DSP faces class-action suit

DSP Communications, Inc., a California-based maker of wireless personal communications products which is part owned by Israelis, said four shareholders filed a class action suit against it. The four claim DSP violated a California law regarding forward-looking statements the company allegedly made earlier this year.

Jennifer Friedlin

COMPANY RESULTS

First International Bank net up 21%

First International Bank of Israel yesterday reported a 21-percent increase in first-quarter net income to NIS 46 million from NIS 38m. in the same period last year. Income before provisions for doubtful debt rose to NIS 199.1m. from NIS 17.1m.

Trading in the bank's shares was halted for the dissemination of the announcement. Owned by the Safra family, First International is Israel's only privately owned bank and the country's fifth-largest bank in terms of assets.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Cial Electronics profit sharply down

Cial Electronics Industries Ltd. yesterday reported an 87% drop in first-quarter earnings to NIS 11.86m. from NIS 93.92m. in the same period last year. Revenues for the quarter were down 68%.

The company's TASE-traded shares were up 2.25% from Monday's close of NIS 348.76.

Cial Electronics Industries' holdings include stakes in ECI Telecom Ltd., a Petah Tikva-based telecommunications-equipment manufacturer, and printing systems company Scitex Corp. of Herzliya.

Jerusalem Post Staff

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TESHUVA

Continued from Page 4

Families undergoing the process are given counseling to help each member adjust to the changes, he continued. In cases where the children are the ones influenced by the seminar, the counselors make sure they do not leave home and teach them how to behave so as not to offend their parents.

It all sounds idyllic. But Walis admits that Archim's approach in slum neighborhoods is different. Rabbi Ya'acov Ohayon, who told a Bat Yam audience that secular Jews

are a greater threat to religious Jews than Hitler, made that comment at an Archim event.

"The nature of the message varies in accordance with the audience," explained Walis. "Therefore, we divide our activities into two sorts: the educated and the rank-and-file. You have to understand that some of our speakers are *hazrim beshuva*. They speak from their hearts and we don't censor them."

Referring to Ohayon's comment that secular Jews are more dangerous than Hitler, Walis said there are certain things he, personally, would not say aloud.

That did not mean, however, that he might not think them privately.

Archim is one of many *reshuva* programs that receives state funding. In 1995, the last year for which official figures are available, it received over NIS 1,570,000 from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, while the Ministry of Education gave it over NIS 450,000 in the first quarter of the year.

"There are thousands of others who have not quit school against their parents' wishes or left home," said Walis.

But although Walis and Lasri spoke warmly of the need for family harmony, they made it clear it is not their only concern.

"If there is a conflict or disagreement between the mother or father and their child, and if we think in absolute terms, then maybe it is the parents who are in the wrong," said Lasri.

"Although it is the child who has made the change, who says the change is negative? And from a generational aspect, in the past it was the parents who were observant and the children who rebelled. Who is to say which change is from good to bad or from bad to good?"

Furthermore, since some *haredi* institutions are known to receive more public funding than they deserve because they exaggerate the scope of their activities, money is available to pursue undeclared activities such as *hazara beshuva*, he said.

According to figures compiled by Ha'aretz, religious affairs reporter Shahar Dan, in 1995, the last full year of the Labor government, the Religious Affairs and Education ministries allocated NIS 15 million to 11 of the largest *reshuva* institutions.

But former religious affairs minister Shimon Shetret said the real sum is much higher.

"It's impossible to assess the actual figure, because the sources of funding are so varied. They include the religious councils, the municipalities, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, and the Interior Ministry," he said.

Shetret stressed the socioeconomic aspects of *hazara beshuva*, saying it is much more than just a religious phenomenon.

"It's a total system," he said. "Haredi welfare organizations provide the *hazara beshuva* with subsidized food and clothing. He pays NIS 200 per month for day care for his child, instead of NIS 1,000 in the secular world. Transportation is thrown in for free. He enrolls in a yeshiva, for which he receives an extra NIS 600 per month, without giving up his job or welfare payments. And don't forget, most of the poor people in Israel are Sephardim and the Sephardim are traditional. They come already equipped with a natural affinity for religion."

This concludes a five-part investigative series on the *hazara beshuva* movement in Israel's poor neighborhoods.

Leumi hopes for \$150m. in share offer next week

By FELICE MARANZ / Bloomberg and Jerusalem Post Staff

The government hopes to raise \$150 million in Bank Leumi's 14 percent share offer next Tuesday, said Meir Yaacobson, head of MI Holdings, the state company which administers the sale of the government's stakes in the banking industry.

Foreign institutional investors have already committed themselves to \$120m. and Israeli underwriters have committed to \$30m., said Yaacobson, who added that half of the offering will be as shares and half as options.

The foreign investors' commitments are some 20% higher than

the bank's original expectations.

The government holds 82% of Bank Leumi, the country's second-largest bank, with \$39.6 billion in assets.

"We're in the middle of the process, having passed the first stage," said Yaacobson. "We'll see what happens next week."

Institutional investors have committed to a price of NIS 5 per share, he said, below today's price.

Bank Leumi's shares closed down 2% at NIS 5.30 amid reports institutional investors had paid a lower price for their shares.

Last month, the government sold shares and options in Israel Discount Bank, the country's

third-largest bank, raising NIS 212m. The amount raised exceeded the original anticipated total of NIS 156m.

Israel Discount Bank's shares in Tel Aviv fell 0.75% to close at NIS 3.59.

The Israel Discount Bank sale followed the government's sale of 17% of Israel Chemicals Ltd. for NIS 666.9m. in March.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the government intends to raise NIS 4b. from sales of state assets in 1997, particularly from sales of banks.

The government is trying to sell a controlling interest in Bank Hapoalim, the country's biggest bank, through a tender. It also

intends to offer shares in United Mizrahi Bank.

Last week Bank Leumi transferred the government a dividend of NIS 532m., 35% of which reflected the bank's net income for the previous year.

The remainder stemmed from the bank's recent sales of its stakes in the Africa Israel holding company to entrepreneur Lev Levyev, and the Migdal insurance company to Italian insurer Generali.

Both deals were done in line with the requirements of the revised Banking Law, which is aimed at reducing and capping the banks' non-banking holdings.

MKs, Treasury clash over property tax

By DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury is opposed to the abolition of the annual property tax and its replacement by a one-time business sales tax. State Revenue Administration head Tsipi Galyam told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday during a pitched debate with its members, most of whom disagreed with her.

Proposals put forward by the Gabbai committee at the request of outgoing deputy Finance Minister David Magen received the backing of the majority of MKs present at yesterday's debate.

"No one is in favor of the status quo," said Pini Badash (Likud). "If they were, then why did the Treasury set up the committee in the first place?"

No decision was taken during the session, but it became clear there are major differences of opinion between the Finance Ministry and members of the Gabbai Committee, according to Haim Oron (Meretz).

The major proposal of the Gabbai Committee, headed by former state budget director Yoram Gabbai, is to reform the existing 2.5-percent property tax from which many people have exemptions. While the committee examined the possibility of lowering the percentage of the tax and broadening the base, it decided that abolishing it is the only solution and a sales tax would be the most suitable alternative.

During the debate Galyam and senior Income Tax Commission officials raised two objections to the proposed new tax. Estimates from the Gabbai Committee show there would be a NIS 150 million shortfall between the NIS 954m. currently collected and the anticipated revenues from the business sales tax. They also said there will be problems collecting the new tax, and receipts could amount to less than NIS 500m.

This argument was dismissed by Knesset tax sub-committee chairman Ophir Pines (Labor), who said the one-time collection of the levy would be far easier to implement than the current annual payment has proved to be.

The committee was told the ongoing overall shortfall in property tax payments now stands at NIS 5 billion, according to Badash.

Calling for the debate to be put on hold while the Treasury discusses the report, Galyam said she favors maintaining the existing tax, lowering the percentage payable and widening its taxable value base.

Silvan Shalom, the Likud faction leader in the finance committee, said he supports the abolition of the current tax but suggested its proposed replacement is "impractical."

Pines argued it is clear the majority of MKs concerned and the wider community are in favor of abolishing the tax. He warned the Treasury that if it does not act to implement the Gabbai recommendations, he and several other MKs are willing to introduce the legislation themselves. "I am sure we'll have a majority in the house," he said.

While refusing to say he is disappointed by the Treasury's stance, Gabbai said he is convinced that in a matter of months either the government or MKs will begin the legislative process.

Correction

Crystal Systems Solutions Ltd. reported first-quarter net profits of \$386,000, compared to a net loss of \$239,000 in the same period last year, and not as reported.



Yen rebounds against dollar

A British businessman in Tokyo counts his Japanese yen exchanged from US dollars at a hotel yesterday. The US currency broke below 112 yen in Tokyo before bouncing back somewhat in later trading.

(Reuters)

Toys 'R Us: Standards Institute obstructs free market

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Toys 'R Us has asked the Industry and Trade Ministry to investigate the Israel Standards Institute's regulations regarding children's products, the US toy retailer's local franchisee, Leon Koffler, said yesterday.

According to Koffler, the ISI, which approves all products before they are sold locally, protects local manufacturers by implementing strict regulations designed to keep foreign products out.

Toys 'R Us (Israel) director-general Yossi Hod cited the regulations regarding strollers and baby cribs as particularly stringent.

"The Israeli standard for baby cribs is so particular that no bed in the world can meet the standard, not even in Germany, where child-safety awareness is very high," Hod said.

Michaela Orren, head of the ISI's standardization division, said the rules are in no way designed to obstruct Israel's free market. The ISI, she said, must sometimes choose between the European standard at the expense of the American one, and vice versa, depending on which standards will allow the most number of exporters and importers to enter a given market.

"If all the manufacturers buy European production machines and the imports and exports are coming to and from Europe, there is no

sense in adopting the US standard," said Orren, adding that the adoption of both standards would necessitate two types of testing equipment for all products.

Koffler, however, argues that as long as an importer can prove a product has met either the US or European standards, it should not need to be tested again.

Last Thursday, Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky discussed the matter with Koffler, who is also the local franchisee of Blockbuster Video and Office Depot and the owner of Super Pharm. Sharansky advised Koffler to put his suggestions before the ISI, a ministry spokesman said.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.925	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.5.97)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Bank Notes	Rep.
Currency basket	3.6735	3.7326	—	3.7007
U.S. dollar	3.3849	3.4192	3.30	3.3910
German mark	1.9831	2.0151	1.94	1.9968
French franc	5.5409	5.6303	5.44	5.5829
Japanese yen (100)	2.8900	3.0078	2.90	2.9886
Swiss franc	1.7837	1.7922	1.73	1.7761
Dutch florin	2.3883	2.4259	2.34	2.4048
Swedish krona	0.4435	0.4507	0.43	0.4470
Norwegian krona	0.4782	0.4880	0.47	0.5000
Danish krona	0.5207	0.5291	0.51	0.5244
Finnish mark	0.6580	0.6687	0.64	0.6628
Canadian dollar	2.4630	2.4928	2.41	2.4700
Australian dollar	2.6995	2.8415	2.65	2.7624
S. African rand	0.7333	0.7585	0.68	0.7177
Belgian franc (10)	0.9809	0.9784	0.94	0.9676
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8176	2.8693	2.76	2.8372
Italian lire (1000)	2.0151	2.0477	1.98	2.0316
Jordanian dinar	4.7459	4.8225	4.68	4.7600
Egyptian pound	0.3900	0.4000	0.38	0.3900
EU1	3.8749	3.9374	3.82	3.8900
Irish punt	5.1687	5.2501	5.07	5.2052
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3548	2.3928	2.31	2.3715

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ISRAELI SHARES
IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

AMEX

Amrad Paper Mills	42	0
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NASDAQ

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MISHTANIM

LAST CHANGE

TASE ROUNDOFF

LAST CHANGE

265.34 ▲ 0.49%

273.54 ▲ 0.70%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Stock indexes in Tel Aviv rose yesterday as First International Bank of Israel said first-quarter earnings increased 21 percent and as investors hoped the central bank would cut interest rates.

The report from Israel's fifth-largest bank was "very good," said

Ronen Cohen, head of trading at the Tel Aviv office of Oscar Gruss & Sons. Net income rose to NIS 46 million, and the stock went up 1.5% to 2.548.

Rising stocks also included Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., up 1.2% at 197.92. Cial Electronics Industries Ltd., up 2.5% to 408.73, software house Formula Systems Ltd., up 4% to 58.46, Mofet Technology Fund Ltd., up 3% to 182.5, and Maritime Bank, up 5.5% to 17.61.

Declining shares included Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd. and Dead

The Maof Index of 25 most-traded issues added 0.7% to 273.54 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 top stocks advanced 0.49% to 265.34.

The most active issue was Israel Discount Bank, which fell 0.75% to 3.59 on trading of NIS 12.3 million.

A total of NIS 135.6m. of shares traded. Throughout the market, about five shares lost ground for every four that advanced.

Cohen at Oscar Gruss & Sons said he expects central bank Governor Jacob Frenkel to leave the benchmark interest rate at 13.9%. At the same time, "there's a lot of pressure on him" to cut rates "because the last consumer price index was very low," he said.

The April CPI showed a lower-than-expected rise of 0.7%. If Frenkel cuts rates, he'll pare 0.25 percentage points, Cohen added. (Bloomberg)

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

LAST CHANGE

DJ Industrial

DJ Transport

DJ Comp

DJ Energy

DJ Health

DJ Tech

DJ Tel

DJ Indus

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Transfer rumor-mill has Ronaldo at Inter

ROME (Reuters) - Brazilian striker Ronaldo could yet be playing in Italy next season while Italy's World Cup star Roberto Baggio may be heading for France or England.

Florentina's Argentine captain Gabriel Batistuta could meanwhile find himself at an English club.

With Juventus needing just one point, and maybe not even that, to clinch the Italian league soccer title, attention has turned inevitably towards next season.

The well-worn transfer rumor-mill, always rumbling around, has started to grind out faster than ever.

The big recent signing has been German captain Juergen Klinsmann to Sampdoria. But that is fact, not fantasy and the Bayern Munich player has now left the headlines.

Others cannot be pushed out so easily. "Ronaldo has chosen Inter," declared the front page of the Rome daily *Corriere dello Sport* yesterday with a photograph of the shaven-headed Barcelona striker in a black and blue shirt with a broad grin and his arms outstretched.

"The Brazilian ace becomes a star in our championship," it quoted Reynaldo Pitta, one of

Ronaldo's agents, as telling Lazio boss Sergio Cragnotti that Ronaldo had chosen Inter instead of the Rome club's offer. Inter president Massimo Moratti said that the club was interested

also been a reported target for Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

However Fiorentina want to keep their star player and refuse to countenance him joining another Italian club.

Manchester has become another transfer talking point after Frenchman Eric Cantona announced his retirement.

Italian newspapers said that Manchester United were after Baggio, also unsettled for most of the season at Milan, as a Cantona replacement although Marseille were also chasing.

The English champions are also reportedly interested in signing Fabrizio Ravanello from Middlesbrough as well as Middlesbrough's Brazilian midfielder Juninho.

Both played in the Middlesbrough team beaten by Chelsea in the FA Cup Final on Saturday. But according to various reports, Juninho is also on his way to Atletico Madrid, possibly for a world record fee of £16 million.

Chelsea, with three Italians on their books already, were meanwhile reported to have made a fresh \$13m offer for Milan captain and international defender Paolo Maldini.

Inter favored for UEFA Cup

One goal down but with their best players back from suspension, Inter are favored to clinch their third UEFA Cup in six years when they take on Schalke 04 in their second-leg final of the European tournament tonight in Milan.

English midfielder Paul Ince, French forward Youri Djorkaeff and French defender Jocelyn Angloma (all previously suspended) will be starting in the match at San Siro stadium, boosting Inter's chances to make up for a 1-0 defeat suffered in the first leg two weeks ago.

but nothing had been agreed.

The future of Ronaldo has become an obsession in Italy since the player hinted he might leave Barcelona if the Spanish club did not agree to a new and more lucrative contract.

The *Gazzetta dello Sport* said Inter were waiting to see whether Barcelona kept Ronaldo. At the same time they were after Batistuta, who has become increasingly unsettled in Florence and has reportedly sounded keen on a move to Inter.

The Argentine goalscorer has

Red Wings grab 2-1 series lead

DETROIT (Reuters) - Vachekoslav Kozlov scored twice and Mike Vernon made 27 saves as the Detroit Red Wings edged the Colorado Avalanche 2-1 on Monday to seize the lead in the NHL Western Conference finals.

Detroit's Russian unit, which has been sensational throughout these playoffs, came up big again in Game Three to give the Red Wings a two-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Red Wings, who have not won the Stanley Cup since 1955, are two wins away from returning to the championship round for the second time in three years and host Game Four tomorrow.

In the Eastern Conference Finals, the New York Rangers hosted the Philadelphia Flyers last night. The series is tied at one game apiece.

"This was their best game (of the series) and we won it," Red Wings coach Scotty Bowman said. "We could have won all three. How do they like my Russians now?"

It was the seventh goal of the playoffs and second two-goal game for Kozlov.

Code of conduct for England's cricket image

LONDON (AP) - Two days before their first one-day international against Australia, the England cricket squad have been issued a set of guidelines on how to dress and behave on and off the pitch.

The 28-page document presented to each player yesterday by England management committee chairman Bob Bennett outlines the need to present a smart, uniform image.

Positive relations with the media, neat presentation, punctuality and respect for dressing room rules are all addressed in the new code of conduct, which also states that players are not to bet on matches involving themselves.

Players must wear England's official tournament gear when representing their country, which means that England vice-captain Alec Stewart will no longer be able to wear his favorite white batting helmet and faded blue tour hat, which he wears when keeping wicket.

The strict code will prevent controversies like the threatened walkout from the 1996 World Cup by former English wicketkeeper Jack Russell. Organizers tried to stop Russell from wearing his trademark white sun hat as they wanted all players to stick to official tournament headgear.

In addition to the document,

which also outlines the structure of England's new administrative set-up, the English players were each issued with a copy of the 1997 *England Players' Handbook*.

The handbook stresses that professionalism is an important factor in England's success and stipulates that players "will be required to train and practice hard at all times with sensible rest, a carefully controlled diet and a disciplined lifestyle."

The English management will be hoping the code's impact will be evident tomorrow when England meets Australia in the first one-day international at Headingley. The second match is at the Oval on Saturday and the third is at Lord's on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Australia's one-day match against Durham county yesterday was called off due to excessive overnight and morning rain, leaving the tourists slightly underprepared for their match tomorrow.

The Australians have played just two competitive one-day matches since arriving in England last week. The tourists beat Northamptonshire but suffered defeat against Worcestershire, and Australian coach Geoff Marsh would have liked some more match practice time for his players.

Utah's 'supporting cast' rolls past Houston

Malone and Jazz take Game 1 of West finals, 101-86

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The commissioner brought the trophy and the winner graciously accepted. Then the rest of the Utah Jazz went out and showed why Karl Malone has been thanking them so much.

Utah's supporting cast bolstered Malone's steady, if unspectacular, performance on the night he received the MVP award as the Jazz opened the Western Conference finals with a 101-86 romp over the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

Jeff Hornacek scored 19 points, John Stockton had 16 points and 13 assists and the rest of the team

Sportscaster indicted

American sportscaster Marv Albert, the lead announcer for NBA games on NBC television, has been indicted on assault and sodomy charges that allege he viciously bit a Virginia woman and forced her to perform a sex act.

Police spokesman Tom Bell said that Albert and the woman were friends. He said investigators were proceeding carefully because of Albert's high profile and to be sure the woman was "not a gold digger."

made strong contributions to back Malone's 21-point, 13-rebound effort.

Malone also had five turnovers and shot just 6-for-16 from the field, but the occasional sloppiness didn't matter to his adoring crowd.

The Jazz fans gave Malone a standing ovation when commissioner David Stern presented him with the trophy in a pregame ceremony.

They did it again when Malone went to the bench with 2:48 remaining and Utah leading 97-80.

Game 2 in the best-of-7 series is tonight. In the first game of the Eastern Conference finals last night, Miami was at Chicago.

Hakeem Olajuwon led Houston with 30 points, but he didn't score in the fourth period.

Clyde Drexler scored 13, Charles Barkley had 12 and Mario Elie 10 for Houston, which was playing just two days after finishing off Seattle in a seven-game series.

Utah, on the other hand, hadn't played in a week. And once the Jazz shook off the rust after 12 minutes or so, the Rockets could never come all the way back.

Rookie Shandon Anderson scored 11 points off the bench and third-string center Greg Foster scored all nine of his points in the second period to help Utah take command.

The Jazz, who have won their last 20 home games, outshot



HOOPWARD BOUND - Utah's Bryon Russell (1) drives against Houston's Clyde Drexler in first-quarter action. The Jazz won the first game of the Western Conference finals, 101-86. (AP)

Houston 44 percent to 38 percent and finished with only 15 turnovers after committing eight in the first quarter.

Houston shot just 38 percent, including a 3-for-10 effort from Barkley and a 2-for-9 evening from Matt Maloney. Olajuwon, who was 9-of-14 from the field and 12-for-17 from the line, was the only member of the Rockets to shoot above 50 percent.

With Malone on the bench, Utah went on a 10-0 run early in the second quarter for a 30-24 lead. Foster scored nine points for Utah in the first seven minutes of the quarter before Malone returned with the Jazz leading by six.

The margin stayed about the same until Stockton ended the half with a 3-point heave from 26 feet that banked in to give Utah a 49-40 lead.

Utah quickly bumped its lead to double digits early in the third quarter.

The Jazz are 32-3 since March 1.

No deals with the enemy

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA has told its 29 teams they cannot sign a 7-foot-9 (2.32-meter) North Korean basketball player currently residing in Canada.

The league memo was sent after Ri Myong Hun arrived in Canada last Wednesday. Evergreen Sports Management firm has kept Ri secluded in Ottawa, and his spokesman on Monday denied that Ri had defected.

The NBA will not allow any team to sign him unless the State Department gives permission. Signing Ri might violate the Trading With the Enemy Act, which prohibits business dealings between the US and North Korea. The countries have not had diplomatic relations since 1952.

"Word started spreading about Ri after he played for North Korea in the Jones Cup in Taiwan last August."

"He's every bit 7-foot-9. Playing against him is like shooting through a tree," said Wake Forest assistant coach Russell Turner, who helped coach the US Jones Cup team. "He shot free throws very well, and he could dunk without leaving his feet, but he doesn't rebound and he doesn't get up in the air."

Ri, whose age is between 25 and 27, "isn't as skinny as Shawn Bradley or Manute Bol, but he isn't as thick as George Mursun," Turner said.

The 7-foot-7 (2.27m) Bol was the tallest player in NBA history.

Legislative efforts afoot to return Dodgers to Brooklyn

NEW YORK (AP) - Undeterred by a brushoff from Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley, two Brooklyn congressmen on Monday unveiled legislation aimed at making it easier to return the for-sale baseball team to its original home.

Apparently determined to continue tilting at this particular windmill, Democratic Reps. Jerrold Nadler and Charles Schumer said their bill would invalidate a Major League Baseball rule under which local owners can veto a move by another team into their city.

Such a change would allow a local group to make an offer for the Dodgers without fear of a veto by New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner or New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, the congressmen said during a news conference at Brooklyn's Borough Hall.

O'Malley, meanwhile, continues to negotiate with media mogul Rupert Murdoch, who reportedly has offered \$350 million for the Dodgers. Last month, O'Malley rejected a request for a meeting with representatives of a state commission seeking to bring the Dodgers back to Brooklyn.

Monday's news conference was a surreal combination of rose-tinted nostalgia for the faded "Bums" of Ebbets Field and hard-headed appeals to the glory of unfettered free market capitalism.

In consecutive breaths, Nadler invoked the people of Brooklyn's "birthright" to the Dodger franchise, which moved West in 1957, and condemned the "dictatorial power" of baseball owners to engage in a "conspiracy against commerce."

Baseball's rules restricting franchise movement - which include the veto power given to owners already in a market, as well as a requirement that all franchise moves be approved by separate votes of American and National League owners - are protected by a 1922 US Supreme Court decision that held the sport exempt from antitrust laws.

However, challenges to such restrictions in other sports have been upheld by courts in recent years and Schumer and Nadler said it's now time for baseball to be stripped of its antitrust exemption.

American League					National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	28	18	.609	-	Atlanta	30	13	.698	-
New York	25	18	.581	4	Florida	26	16	.619	5
Toronto	21	19	.525	8	Montreal	24	17	.585	6
Detroit	19	23	.452	9	New York	23	20	.535	7
Boston	16	24	.400	11	Philadelphia	16	26	.381	13
Central Division					Central Division				
Kansas City	20	20	.500	-	Houston	23	21	.523	-
Cleveland	20	20	.500	-	Pittsburgh	21	21	.500	1
Minneapolis	19	20	.487	1	St. Louis	17	25	.405	5
Chicago	18	22	.450	2	Chicago	15	27	.357	7
Minnesota	17	26	.395	4	Cincinnati	13	29	.310	9
West Division					West Division				
Texas	23	17	.575	-	San Francisco	24	17	.585	-
Seattle	24	19	.558	1	Los Angeles	23	18	.561	1
Anaheim	21	20	.512	2	Colorado	23	19	.548	1
Oakland	17	27	.388	8	San Diego	16	25	.390	8

Monday's AL result: Seattle 13, Anaheim 4. Only game scheduled. Monday's NL result: San Diego 13, Cincinnati 6; Montreal 2, Los Angeles 1; NY 4, Colorado 3; Chicago 15, San Francisco 4; Houston 9, Philadelphia 5; Atlanta 7, St. Louis 3.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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DEADLINES: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday.
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DWELLINGS

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Driving test scam 'a national problem'

Top Transport Ministry official pledges crackdown on illegal drivers

By DAVID HARRIS

The driving instructors and examiners corruption scandal is not restricted to the North, but affects the whole country, Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langental told the Knesset Economics committee yesterday.

Langental pledged his ministry would find and deal with the thousands of drivers who did not legitimately pass their tests. "If the current law is not sufficient I will recommend to Transport Minister [Yitzhak Levy] the introduction of new legislation."

In January, the police Northern District launched an investigation, and on Sunday arrested 13 examiners and five instructors for allegedly taking bribes in exchange for allowing driving students to pass without taking the required 28-lesson minimum or achieving the required driving standard.

More arrests are expected, according to Dep-

Cmdr. Yitzhak Bashan, who is leading the inquiry. "In my opinion, this is one of the most serious criminal occurrences in the history of the State of Israel," said committee chairman Eli Goldschmidt (Labor). "With 600 killed on the roads every year and thousands injured we are always asking what we can do, yet here we find people who don't know how to drive being allowed on the road and as such are potential killers."

There is already initial evidence that these drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents. "There is a clear link between those holding these licenses and the number of accidents in the North," said Bashan, who described the evidence as irrefutable. Asked by whether the scandal has affected every driving school and test center in the North, Bashan replied, "Everyone who had to know, knew."

Findings of the police investigation include:

- Despite the legal requirement of 28 lessons, and students having to sign a form to confirm they have

taken this number, many have taken far fewer than this, even as few as five.

- On many occasions students passed their tests despite the examiner having applied the brakes on several occasions during the exam.

- When questioned many of these students knew little or nothing of driving theory.

- Usually where two students were examined together, one would always pass. The examiner would be told in advance which of the two to pass.

- The scam was initially started in late 1990 or 1991 by one or two people. This figure increased over the years, to the extent the police do not know how many people were involved, claiming many have already retired.

- There are now thousands of drivers on the roads who passed their tests in the North by means of these irregularities.

"There was an administrative failure," admitted National Examiners chairman David Ben-Shabbat.

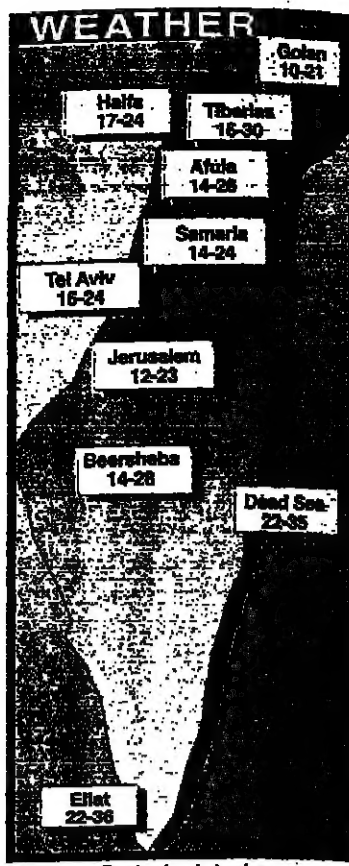
"This is not just a case of corruption, but people's lives we're talking about."

When asked by Goldschmidt if he had heard any rumors of the scandal, Ben-Shabbat said he had not.

However, National Organization of Driving Instructors in Israel Shlomo Josefberg admitted to hearing of the events, but also of passing the information on to the appropriate authorities. He also used the opportunity to roundly condemn the practice.

Attention now turns to those driving on the licenses obtained through this mechanism. "Revoke their licenses immediately," recommended MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

Langental said the correct legal channels must be used. He and others also called for a change in the system that has allowed students to take fewer lessons. "Twenty-eight is only the minimum," he said. "If a student needs 50 or 130 lessons, so be it."



Kasparov: Deep Blue had unfair advantage

By URIEL HEILMAN

World chess champion Garry Kasparov yesterday expressed his lack of confidence in the IBM team that created the computer Deep Blue - the machine which defeated him in a recent chess match some engineers have hailed as the beginning of the Information Age.

Speaking at a press conference at the Tel Aviv Hilton shortly after his arrival in the country to promote the opening of a new chess academy in Tel Aviv, he said the computer team had created a "hostile atmosphere."

It had done this, he said, by approaching the match as an adversarial event rather than a scientific experiment in greater understanding of artificial intelligence. Kasparov also criticized the reluctance of the IBM team to release a print-out of Deep Blue's "thinking process" after the match.

Just as an athlete must go through drug tests after an outstanding performance, he said, Deep Blue should have gone through tests after the match to ensure that engineers did not help the computer during the contest.

"We must separate science and sports," said Kasparov, explaining that the machine had several unfair advantages. "The computer doesn't care about psychological pressure like the air conditioning or noise in the hall," he said, adding that unlike its human opponent, Deep Blue does not tire or get frustrated. "I played a strong opponent with no previous knowledge of it," he continued.

"I would like to leave my prob-



Garry Kasparov (right) gives Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo a few hints during a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Nan Osendryev/Israel Sun)

lems behind and look forward to the next match, which IBM owes to mankind, which I didn't represent very well at the last match," said Kasparov.

He insisted that to ensure the fairness of a future match, games should be limited to one per day. Kasparov should be supplied with records of games the computer

played in the lab, and Deep Blue's thinking process should be released at the end of the match to guard against foul play.

The new chess academy Kasparov has come to promote will be dedicated tomorrow at 5 p.m. It aims to educate youngsters in chess, create a program for including chess in educational curricula

around the world, train chess instructors, and support the proliferation of chess playing and chess studies around the world. The Ramat Aviv academy will also house a regular library.

Funding for the academy has come from Sol Mark, who does not know how to play chess, and the Tel Aviv Municipality. Mark said he

hopes the academy will help keep kids off the street, serve as an alternative sport for the handicapped, who cannot compete in other games, and raise the level of Israeli chess.

Kasparov said he plans to visit the academy, which he hopes will become the world's leading chess entity, three or four times a year.

Number of skin cancer deaths falling

By JUDY SIEGEL

By the year 2000, one in 78 people will develop the potentially fatal kind of skin cancer, melanoma, and one in five will have a non-melanoma type of skin cancer. But the good news is that the number of deaths from skin cancer is declining due to earlier diagnosis.

The Israel Cancer Association announced yesterday that free skin cancer checks will be offered today and Thursday at 120 clinics around the country. The skin cancer awareness program is being held in cooperation with the health funds, the Israel Dermatology and Plastic Surgery Societies and the Health Ministry. For the clinic closest to you, call the ICA at 03-571-7888.

According to ICA officials, 600 new cases of melanoma were discovered in Israel last year, compared to an average of 300 during each of the years between 1980 and 1985 and 400 each between 1990 and 1994. But due to increased awareness, nearly half are diagnosed during the early stages when survival is most likely, compared to only a little over a quarter in the early Eighties.

By far the most improvement has been in Tel Aviv, where for every late-stage diagnosis of melanoma, the cancer is caught early for eight people. In Jerusalem, there are the fewest number of melanoma cases due to the covered-up religious population of Jews and Arabs. But if they contract melanoma, their awareness of the need to go for early detection is less pronounced because of reduced exposure to the news media. Since CIS immigrants tend to have pale, sensitive skin and are not used to sunny weather, the ICA issues informational material in Russian.

At the earliest stages, when the tumor is small and before the cancer penetrates beyond the skin, 90 percent of all melanomas can be cured.

It used to appear in 30% more women than men, but the figures are beginning to balance out, with women now having 20% more. The ICA's explanation is that women are now more aware of the dangers of sun exposure and take more care to protect themselves with hats, long-sleeved, light clothing, sunscreens and sunglasses. Parents are urged to be especially careful to protect children, as one or two serious sunburns at this age can cause melanoma in adulthood.

For the first time, the Health Ministry's Cancer Registry has released figures on the number of basal cell carcinoma cases. The most common of skin cancers, its incidence is growing, and some 7,500 new cases are diagnosed each year. Fortunately, it is not often fatal, but removing the tumor can cause serious esthetic harm and suffering.

Meanwhile, Dr. Dov Stamper, a dermatologist at Assaf Harofeh Hospital, declared that "sunbathing is not healthful, but if one insists on doing it, do so only before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m., when the ultraviolet rays are less intense." He advised always putting on UV-protective sunscreen before leaving the house and several times a day if the heat causes heavy perspiration.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW		HIGH		
	F	F	F	F	
Amsterdam	12	54	22	72	cloudy
Berlin	14	57	20	68	cloudy
Buenos Aires	17	63	28	80	rain
Caro	17	63	28	80	rain
Chicago	04	29	19	66	cloudy
Copenhagen	05	59	25	77	cloudy
Frankfurt	05	59	25	77	cloudy
Geneva	10	55	20	72	rain
Helsinki	04	58	11	52	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	77	29	84	cloudy
Los Angeles	04	58	11	52	cloudy
London	14	57	20	68	cloudy
Madrid	12	54	18	66	cloudy
Moscow	17	63	28	80	rain
Montreal	11	52	22	72	rain
New York	08	41	15	58	cloudy
Paris	08	37	15	61	cloudy
Stockholm	08	37	15	61	cloudy
Rome	12	57	29	84	cloudy
Sydney	12	54	18	66	cloudy
Stockholm	12	54	18	66	cloudy
Tokyo	15	59	16	64	cloudy
Toronto	08	41	15	58	cloudy
Vancouver	16	58	28	82	cloudy

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, and ace of clubs; and the 8 of spades, ace of hearts, king of diamonds, and king of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 3, 7, 16, 25, 38 and 39 and the additional number was 14.

French top general arrives for 2-day visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Chief of Staff Gen. Jean-Philippe Douin arrives today for an official two-day visit as guest of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. The visit comes three months after the visit by French Defense Minister Charles Millon and amid efforts to revive sales of military equipment between the two countries.

Douin is to be received tomorrow at Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv by an official honor guard, after which he is to meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. The top French general is also scheduled to visit the Northern and Central commands and be briefed on Israel's security situation.

Shahak visited France last September and Douin's visit is part of a reciprocal visit among top brass of both countries. Last year, Israel for the first time opened a pavilion at the Eurosatory armament exhibition which presented products from 11 defense-related industries. Next month, 19 civilian and military companies will be presenting their wares at the 47th Paris air show.

While French military sources are skeptical that their country will be able to dent the strong procurement links Israel has with the United States, some headway was made during Millon's visit.

There are no joint French-Israeli training exercises and neither country appears eager for them to take place. France also does not use Israeli airspace for training as the Americans do, and are doing this week in the Negev. France is the world's third-largest defense exporter, with \$4 billion in annual sales, but military trade with Israel is just \$60 million.

Douin is also to meet with President Ezer Weizman, and visit Yad Vashem and Yitzhak Rabin's gravesite.

Israeli sues TWA for \$6.5m. after being pulled off flight

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Israeli owner of a Manhattan jazz club, fuming that he was too late to visit with his dying father in Tel Aviv, is suing TWA for \$6.5 million, after his arrest following his questioning TWA's no-smoking rule.

Reuven Barzilai, who owns Arthur's jazz club in Greenwich Village, was en route to see his father, Shaye, in Petah Tikva's Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus on January 22. He was hauled off his TWA flight and arrested at Kennedy Airport after complaining to TWA flight personnel about an unexpected ban on smoking for the flight, according to

accounts in New York newspapers.

He was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. But Barzilai, 49, said that he was calm and that his only crime was to question the sudden change in smoking policy for the flight.

"I didn't raise my voice," he said. He spent a night in jail before a local judge

dismissed the charges. When Barzilai arrived in Tel Aviv three days later, his father was comatose and unable to speak, according to Barzilai's court papers. Shaye Barzilai died on January 29.

The suit seeks damages for false imprisonment, slander and mental and physical injuries.

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